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CONTENTS

25 October 1988

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

25 October Middle East and South Asia Review 1

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Addresses Israeli Voters on 'Opportunity' *[Baghdad Voice of the PLO]* 3
Salah Khalaf on PNC 'Independence' Document *[Jeddah 'UKAZ 18 Oct]* 4
Salah Khalaf: Libya Financing West Bank Revolt *[JANA]* 5
PLO To Ask Arab League To Recognize Passport *[MENA]* 5
Abu Sharif on Israeli Raids, PNC Session *[WAKH]* 5
PLO Radio on Israeli Raid, Syrian 'Collusion' *[Baghdad Voice of the PLO]* 6

OPEC Affairs

Reportage on OPEC Pricing, Strategy Meeting 7
    'More' Meetings Needed *[AFP]* 7
    Progress Seen Toward Agreement *[Vienna OPECNA]* 8
    Iran Presents New Proposals *[IRNA]* 8
    Iran's Aqazadeh on Meeting *[IRNA]* 8
    Algerian Minister on Prices *[Madrid]* 9
    Iran Agrees to Equal Quota *[Tehran]* 9

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Presidency Defines 'Main Elements' of Reform 10

Egypt

France's Mitterrand Arrives; Mubarak Comments 12
Mubarak Discusses Palestinian, Arab Politics *[AL-AHRAM 20 Oct]* 12
    Views Domestic Issues *[AL-AHRAM 21 Oct]* 16
Mubarak, Cabinet Discuss Economic Issues 18
AL-AKHBAR Hails Tripartite Summit Talks *[23 Oct]* 20
Objectives of Aqaba, Baghdad Summits Viewed 20
    Further Commentary 21
Commentary Outlines 'Road of Opportunity' 21

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Vows To 'Erase' Israeli 'Entity' 22
Envoy on Resumption of Relations With Zaire *[AFP]* 22

Sudan

Town of Nasir Under 'Heavy Rebel Attack' 23
SPLA Denies Blocking Relief Efforts *[Radio SPLA]* 23
AL-BAYAN on Army Operations Against Rebels *[23 Oct]* 24
Al-Mirghani on Garang, Ties With Ethiopia *[Kuwait AL-SIYASAH 21-22 Oct]* 24
Foreign Minister Discusses Unrest in South *[London AL-HAWADITH 21 Oct]* 25
Garang Message on Revolution Anniversary *[Radio SPLA]* 27

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

AL-SIYASAH on 'Comforting Signs' From Tehran *[20-21 Oct]* 28
Paper on USSR's Aim To 'Colonize' Region *[AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM 22 Oct]* 28

Qatar

British Minister Leaves for Riyadh 22 Oct 29
Saudi Foreign Minister Visits During Gulf Tour 29

Saudi Arabia

PDRY Minister Calls Talks 'Constructive' 29

United Arab Emirates

Memorandum Urges Arab Summit To 'Save' Lebanon 30
British Minister Waldegrave Meets With Officials 30
  Sees President Zayid 30
  Meets With Counterpart 30
  Holds News Conference 30
  Departs After 2-Day Visit 31
Saudi Foreign Minister Arrives, Makes Statement 31
Foreign Minister Returns From Argentina, Brazil 32

Yemen Arab Republic

USSR Deputy Defense Minister Departs 22 Oct 32

IRAQ

'Aziz Urges Arab League To 'Move' on Lebanon 33
Arab League's Klibi Arrives, Makes Statement 33
  Meets With Tariq 'Aziz 33
UN Delegate on Nuclear Arms, Israeli Satellite 33
Kurdish Leader Talabani on Chemical Warfare *[Paris LE MONDE 23-24 Oct]* 34
Ba'th Party Official on 'Zionists,' Syria 34

ISRAEL

IDF Captures 2 DFLP 'Terrorists' 35
Rabin, Lahd on Car Bomb Attacks in South Lebanon 35
Ben-Aharon on Husayn Interview, Aqaba Meeting 35
Commentary on Aqaba Meeting, Husayn Involvement *[MA'ARIV 24 Oct]* 36
Aqaba Talks: 'Honest' Attempt at Joint Delegation 37
Peres Briefed on U.S. Meeting With Saudi Envoy *[MA'ARIV 23 Oct]* 37
Foreign Ministry Appointments Announced 38
Gerasimov: 'No Knowledge' of Official Visit *[MA'ARIV 21 Oct]* 38
Envoy Notes Soviet 'Downplaying' of Contacts 38
Romania To Ship Soviet Raw Materials to Israel 39
Cabinet Ratifies EEC Trade Protocols *[THE NATION 25 Oct]* 39
President Herzog Returns From France 39
Palestinian Notables on Elections, Issues *[THE JERUSALEM POST 24 Oct]* 39
'Power Struggle' Among 3 Arab Parties Analyzed *[HA'ARETZ 23 Oct]* 40
Likud, Labor on PLO 'Intervention' in Elections *[THE JERUSALEM POST 25 Oct]* 40
Polls Reflect Close Race in Upcoming Elections 41
  Race Narrows to 2 Seats *[MA'ARIV 21 Oct]* 41
  'Close Race' Reflected in Polls *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 21 Oct]* 41
  Tie Indicated Between Main Blocs *[DAVAR 21 Oct]* 42
  Results Vary After Debate *[HA'ARETZ 24 Oct]* 42

- Election Surplus Vote Agreements Reviewed *[DAVAR 23 Oct]* 43
- Further on Casualties, Incidents in Territories 43
  - 1 Death Reported in Nabulus 43
  - 'Violent Demonstration' in Gaza 44
- Bedouin Youth Imprisoned 10 Months for Stoning *[HA'ARETZ 21 Oct]* 44
- Research Indicates 'Clear Signs' of Oil *['AL HAMISHMAR 21 Oct]* 44
- 9 Suspected Heroin Dealers Arrested 44

JORDAN

- Joint Committee With Palestinians Meets 24 Oct 45
- King Husayn Confers Medals on Iraqi Officials *[JORDAN TIMES 2 Oct]* 45
- King Visits AL-RA'Y, JORDAN TIMES Offices 45
- Professional Unions Boycott AL-RA'Y Newspaper *[Dubayy AL-BAYAN 20 Oct]* 45
- Air Force Receives British-Made Radar Stations *[Abu Dhabi AL-ITTHIHAD 23 Oct]* 45
- Paper Claims 'Arafat Supporters Cause Dinar Drop *[Jerusalem]* 45
- Bank Official on Dinar Rate, Monetary Policy 46
- Army Chief Returns From Visit to Turkey 46
- Al-Tabba' Returns From Trade Discussions in Egypt *[AL-RA'Y 22 Oct]* 46
- Minister Leaves To Discuss Labor Ties With India 46
- AL-DUSTUR Praises Aqaba Talks, Peace Stand *[24 Oct]* 47

LEBANON

- Islamic Jihad Threatens Italian Authorities *[AFP]* 48
  - Italy Accused of 'Lying' *[AFP]* 48
- AL-SHIRA' on 'New' U.S.-Iranian Hostage Deal *[24 Oct]* 48
- 'Awn Rules Out Negotiations With Syria *[RFL]* 49
- 'Arab Officials' Urge Syria To Change Policy *[RFL]* 49
- Shams al-Din on Al-Qadhdhafi Stand on Lebanon 49
  - Abu Jamrah Praises Statement *[RFL]* 49
- Al-Husayni Receives UK Parliamentary Delegation *[VOM]* 49
- Al-Jumayyil Discusses Future Plans, Situation *[Kuwait AL-ANBA' 22 Oct]* 49
- Birri Warns Against 'New Wave of Violence' 50
- 7 Fatah Members Surrender to SLA After Clash *[Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope]* 50
  - Fatah Statement on Surrender *[VOM]* 51
- Israel Continues Military Action in Retaliation 51
  - Positions Raided in Al-Biqa' *[AFP]* 51
  - Further on Raid 51
  - Planes Reconnoiter Over Beirut *[VOL]* 51
  - Troops on Border 51
  - 1,500 Soldiers Deployed *[RFL]* 51
  - 3 Casualties in Clash 51
- Booby-Trapped Car Explodes in Al-Biqa' *[VOL]* 51

SYRIA

- Reportage on Talks Between YSP, Ba'th Party 52
  - Delegation Arrives 21 Oct 52
  - Discusses 'Arab Developments' 52
  - Meets With Al-Shar' 52
  - Holds 2d Round of Talks 52
  - Meets With Vice President 53
  - Meets With Al-Asad 53
- Austrian President Waldheim To Visit Syria 27 Oct 53
  - TISHRIN Welcomes Visit 53

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Najibullah Sends Message on UN Anniversary 54
Rabbani Criticizes UN Official's Remarks *[AFP]* 54
105th Memorandum Presented to UN Mission 55
Rebel-Controlled Areas Face Food, Health Problems *[AFP]* 55
Rebels Capture Capital of Kapisa Province *[AFP]* 55
Mujahidin Reportedly Surround Qandahar Airport *[AFP]* 56
Armed Forces Confiscate 12 Missiles Near Paghman 56
'Extremists' Fire Missiles at Kabul City 56
Rebels 'Crushed' in Herat, Qandahar, Paktia 56
Rebels 'Crushed' in Paktia, Faryab Provinces 57
Kabul Details Fighting Among Rebels in Samangan 57

India

Security Forces on Burmese Border 'on Alert' *[AFP]* 57
Angolan President Arrives for 3-Day Visit 58
Gandhi Dismisses Rumors of 'Snap' Election 58
USSR Offers To Update MiG-21 Aircraft *[PATRIOT 12 Oct]* 58
Meeting With USSR Endorses Peace, Disarmament 59
'High-Level' Soviet Trade Delegation Arrives 59
Commentary Previews Gorbachev Visit, Cooperation 59
Violent Incidents Continue in Punjab State 60
    Strike Protests Leader's Death 60
    24 'Terrorists' Seized 60
    21 'Terrorists' Arrested 60
    12 'Terrorists' Captured 61
    10 Killed in Tanda 61

Iran

Official Refused U.S. Entry for UN Meeting 61
Velayati Interviewed on Peace Talks, Afghanistan 61
Hungarian Premier Arrives 25 Oct for 3-Day Visit 63
PRC Light Industry Minister Visits Tehran 63
    Meets Agriculture Minister 63
    Sees Construction Jihad Minister 63
    Confers With Velayati 63
    Concludes Visit, Departs 63
French Ambassador Confers With Velayati 64
Spanish Industry Minister Arrives in Tehran 64
    Agreement on Power Plants 64
GDR Official Departs; Says Talks 'Productive' 64
Oil Minister Returns From Madrid OPEC Meeting 64
Finance Minister Details Visit to Yugoslavia 64
President Visits Northwestern Provinces 65
    Addresses Group at Orumiyeh 65
    Urges Vigilance Against Enemies 66
    Notes 'Bond' Between IRGC, Army 66
    Visits Kurdish Area of Mahabad 67
    Continues Azarbayjan Tour 67
Navy Chief on Gulf Minesweeping Operations 67
Khalkhali Calls for Restoration of Placenames 68
KDP Discloses August Iraqi Chemical Attacks 68
    SAIRI Chairman on Struggle Against Iraq 68
    Returns to Tehran 68

775 Disabled Iraqi POW's Released 69
Commentary Assails Iraq Over POW Exchanges 69
Foundation To Pay Loans to 'Imposed War' Migrants 69
Sohrabi Comments on Drug Smuggling, Draft Dodgers 70
Unrest Reported in Baluchestan va Sistan Province *[Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio]* 70
Former Minister Reveals Unauthorized Purchases *[Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio]* 70

Sri Lanka

Colombo Reports on UNP Election Manifesto 70
Curfews Imposed in Southern, Western Provinces *[AFP]* 71
  Curfew 'Strictly Imposed' *[AFP]* 71
Suspected 'Militants' Bomb UNP Branch Office *[AFP]* 72
  UNP Headquarters 'Not Bombed' 72
Indian Soldiers Killed in Landmine Explosions 72
  5 Persons Killed in North, East 72

25 October Middle East and South Asia Review

LD2510131388 [Editorial Report]

Lebanon

Israeli warplanes attacked and destroyed a "terrorist" target in the eastern sector of southern Lebanon 24 October, Jerusalem radio announced, adding that the target was a base used by terrorists for launching operations.

Beirut radio noted that the raid was directed at a military base of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party (SSNP), which acknowledged that the attack destroyed a building and wounded one SSNP member.

In another development, IDF radio reported that Israeli soldiers captured two DFLP members attempting to enter northern Israel through the western foothills of Mount Hermon, while the South Lebanese Army (SLA) apprehended seven Fatah members in the southern village of Kafr Killa, near the Israeli border post of Metulla.

A Fatah spokesman cited by the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio confirmed that the captured Fatah squad had been heading for a nearby Israeli settlement in an attempt to take hostages and demand Israel's withdrawal from occupied Palestinian land.

SLA commander General Antoine Lahd subsequently announced that additional troops and new measures will be introduced to prevent infiltrations by terrorist squads into the border security zone, according to Jerusalem radio.

The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon cited reports that Israel sent an additional 1,500 soldiers into the security zone 24 October.

In Beirut, the Islamic Jihad denied having any links with Aline Rizqallah, the Lebanese woman who was arrested in Milan recently in possession of photographs of U.S. hostages, as well as heroin and forged banknotes.

The Jihad communique, which was accompanied by a photograph of U.S. hostage Terry Anderson, viewed Rizqallah's connections with "Israel's agents" and her drug smuggling as "sufficient proof" that she has no ties with Islamic Jihad, AFP noted.

The group threatened to punish Italian authorities for making "allegations devoid of truth" about the photographs found in Rizqallah's possession.

PLO Affairs

'Arafat in Turkey—Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Turkey 24 October for talks with Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, Ankara radio reorted. Ozal declared that Turkey is ready to "assume responsibility" in the convening of an international Middle East conference.

Israeli Elections—The PLO called on Israeli voters to choose peace, not war, in a statement broadcast on Baghdad's Voice of the PLO radio.

The statement called on voters to take the opportunity to secure independence for Palestinians and peace for everyone, noting that some Israeli forces and parties share these views and should therefore be supported.

Fatah Central Committee member Khalid al-Hasan, in an interview with Radio Monte Carlo, said Arab voters should not boycott the elections as they have in the past, because there is a "new voice" in Israel which agrees politically with the PLO on the question of withdrawal, the establishment of a Palestinian state, and the right to self-determination.

He said, however, there is no preference for Shim'on Peres over Yitzhaq Shamir because both have adopted a hostile line toward the PLO.

Israel

Elections—Both the Labor Party and Likud spoke out against PLO intervention in the upcoming elections, THE JERUSALEM POST reported.

Sources from Prime Minister Shamir's office expressed confidence, however, that no loyal Israeli citizen would do as 'Arafat says.

In contrast, the PLO statement was welcomed by the Progressive List for Peace (PLP), the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality, and the Arab Democratic Party.

A PLP Knesset member claimed that government and defense circles are planning to foil the Algiers PNC meeting with an air raid and a destructive force on the ground, MA'ARIV reported.

Territories—Two Arabs died in further clashes in the territories, according to Jerusalem radio and television.

One of the victims was a 7-year-old Rafah boy who was hit by a plastic bullet.

New Radio—A radio station called Voice of the Gazelle began broadcasting 21 October from a ship outside Israeli territorial waters, Jerusalem radio reported.

The station was set up by settlers in the territories who wish to air broadcasts of a "national, Zionist" nature, the radio added.

Libya

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi reiterated Libya's opposition to the existence of an Israeli state and the "treacherous" movements of those who support recognition of it, Tripoli radio reported. He said those who have committed such treachery will be punished.

Algeria

The principle elements of the second part of President Chadli Bendjedid's proposed political reforms were defined in a presidential statement carried by Algiers television, which noted that the proposals will be discussed at the FLN Congress before being submitted to the people in a referendum.

The reforms are aimed at allowing all forces in Algeria to participate equally in political life, the television said, and this will lead to changes in the National Charter, Constitution, and electoral law.

The presidential statement focused primarily on the need for change within the ruling party, stressing that the FLN must become a "more authentic representative force" through democratizing its procedures, broadening its membership, encouraging dialogue between the FLN and other national forces, and ending its direct domination over the state apparatus, elected councils, the economy, and professional bodies.

This will mean free elections to all FLN posts, allowing militants of "various tendencies and orientations" to join and ending the party's participation in the direct management of the state apparatus at all levels.

Such changes will allow the FLN to understand citizens' problems and confront the "demagogic demands" of opposition forces, the statement indicated.

While noting that reforms within the FLN may lead to "political pluralism," the statement warned that "under no cirmcumstances can political pluralism be established with circles that aim at obtaining privileges under the framework of superficial democracy fed by demagogic excesses and regional and factional fanaticisms."

Nevertheless, the statement promised "free nominations" for municipal council elections, regardless of whether these nominations are backed by the FLN or not.

Iran

U.S. Entry Denial—Iran's senior representative at the Geneva Arms Control Conference was denied entry to the United States to present a report on chemical weapons at the United Nations, IRNA reported.

He said the U.S. claim that he is a threat to security is just an excuse with no validity in international law.

Placenames—Majlis Deputy Sadeq Khalkhali called for the restoration of placenames that were changed at the time of the revolution, IRNA reported. He specifically mentioned Kermanshah, which was changed to Bakhtaran.

Minesweeping—The commander of the Navy announced Iran is ready to sweep the coasts of the "other countries" of the Persian Gulf to clear mines, Tehran radio reported.

Afghanistan

Resistance forces captured the capital of Kapisa Province 24 October in fighting that left 100 government troops dead, AFP reported.

Three civilians were killed in a missile attack on Kabul, according to a Kabul radio report.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Addresses Israeli Voters on 'Opportunity'

JN2410213388 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1958 GMT 24 Oct 88

["Text" of call issued by the PLO "to the Jewish voter" on the occasion of the Israeli general elections—date, place not given]

[Text] The Israeli general elections will be held under the uprising. The conflict between the blood and the sword has not stopped one moment in the past 11 months and it seems it will not stop as long as the Israeli ostrich continues to bury its head in the mud. It is time for the superstitions and the occupation to end now, not tomorrow. Today's picture in the mind and on the ground is different from yesterday's. Is there any person who can say: I neither saw nor heard? The Palestinian people, who have been suffering under the occupation for 20 years, have announced their final determination to end the occupation regardless of the sacrifices and prices.

Israel's repressive, hellish machine could not repress the faith of the unarmed Palestinian people in the usefulness of freedom and independence. Martyrs fall in hundreds while they raise the banner of the homeland, thousands of detainees are calling out for freedom, and the limbs of children are being crushed with stones and iron but they send doves to the sky. The difference between the victim and the hangman becomes clear on the screen of world conscience. Yet the occupation's generals lie to themselves and to reality. They say security is more important than image.

Is the Israelis' security achieved only through the crushing of Palestine's children? Is there no other way? We believe there is another way beginning with the recognition of Palestinian reality and Palestinian rights. We believe indifference to this point will result in more involvement in an endless bloodshed and will create new reasons for new wars.

We are positively watching a new Israeli concept adopted by some sides and forces that there is need to move to other historic options. At the same time, we warn against the growth of the rightist trend to replace reality with superstition, to identify geography with ideology, and to continue to feed false fear over the future and a normal life. We also warn against the foolishness of threatening a third world war, which will lead to the annihilation of mankind only because the world recognizes the Palestinian people's right to exist.

With its peaceful nature and logical political program, the popular uprising has undermined many illusions. It has undermined the belief that force can crush our will. It has also undermined the Israeli rightists' continued adherence to the dream of completing Israel's territory, not only because 1.5 million Palestinian Arabs are threatening the pure Jewish nature of the Jewish state and exposing the trap of the racist democracy, but also because the Palestinian people are exercising their humanitarian and national policy on their land by resisting the occupation and formulating their national independence program.

The uprising says the solution is possible and realistic. If independence is possible then peace is also possible. Hence, if the Palestinians' right to national independence is recognized, then a new page of peace, security, and free coexistence will be turned in the history of this land. From this premise, the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, views the Israeli elections campaign as an exceptional campaign which will test the soundness of awareness, the wellbeing of conscience, and the genuineness of the desire for a peaceful living.

The PLO would like to address the Israelis, calling on them to take the historic opportunity for a solution—a solution based on securing independence for Palestinians and security and peace for all. The bias by the Israelis toward the forces which represent the real peace option will contribute to rendering this opportunity a success and to moving the entire Middle East to new horizons of creativity.

The PLO would like to reaffirm that the condition to enter the atmosphere of peace is full Israeli withdrawal from the Palestinian and Arab lands occupied in 1967 as well as recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to the establishment of an independent national state. The PLO is of the opinion that the road to a realistic and possible solution is the framework of an international conference under UN auspices and with the participation of the five permanent Security Council member states along with the parties to the conflict, including the PLO and the Government of Israel.

We are also of the opinion that the basis of an international conference is international legitimacy represented by Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as well as the recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination which was affirmed by UN resolutions.

While noting there are common points of convergence in viewing the framework of a solution between us and some Israeli forces and parties, we are of the opinion that supporting these forces and consolidating them in Israeli political life, particularly in the Knesset, will contribute to the exertion of internal pressures to push the Israeli political option toward a just solution based on recognizing the Palestinians' right to national independence.

Such a recognition will provide an appropriate atmosphere to discuss the formulation of new relations between the Arab and Jewish societies in the land of Palestine. From this premise, the Israeli voter faces a historic opportunity to define the form of his destiny which is not in parallel with the Palestinian destiny.

Hence, at the beginning of November, the Israeli voter will not participate in an ordinary election but will vote for the image of the future. Accordingly, the Israeli voter will vote either for war or peace.

Salah Khalaf on PNC 'Independence' Document

PM2410130588 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 18 Oct 88 p 5

[Interview with Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, by 'Umar Jistinyah; place, date not given]

[Text] [Jistinyah] There has been much talk about the convening of the PNC and the political options it is likely to adopt. What have the Palestinians agreed upon?

[Khalaf] The PNC will convene at the end of October. This is known, as it has been announced by numerous Palestinian sources. As for the venue of the PNC extraordinary session, it is still under the seal of secrecy for security reasons. For your information, several fraternal Arab states have expressed readiness to host the PNC session. The venue is not a problem. It will be announced at the right time.

As for the political options, I can say that after several meetings and consultations the Palestinians have unanimously agreed on the draft independence document; I repeat: the draft document, not the document. It is the PNC which can endorse and declare the Palestinian independence document.

[Jistinyah] What are the most notable features of the document, or let us say the draft independence document?

[Khalaf] The document will declare independence without boundaries. That will be on the basis of international legitimacy as well as the inalienable and legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. The document will be a backing for our kinfolk in the occupied territories to enhance their steadfastness on and adherence to their territory. The objective is to embody independence as reality on the ground.

[Jistinyah] So supporting and escalating the uprising is still a major Palestinian objective and necessity in addition to political moves?

[Khalaf] Yes. Because the uprising has achieved a lot and is still promising. And our people, who—for the 11th month—are still offering more martyrs, wounded, and detainees, are capable of continuing and escalating the uprising to achieve the objectives for which they have risen up, worked, and mounted resistance for many years, namely eliminating the occupation and upholding legitimate national rights. We are moving as quickly as possible to back and escalate the uprising so it can achieve its objectives.

The brave uprising, the Jordanian step to disengage ties with the Palestinian [West] Bank, in addition to international detente over regional problems—all this will be in the interest of the Palestinian cause.

But Palestinian political maneuvering and action are aimed at backing and strengthening the uprising. Within this context PLO Executive Committee Chairman Brother Yasir 'Arafat made his recent tour, which included China, India, Bangladesh, and several Arab states. During the tour consultations were held over the next Palestinian moves and steps.

We have dropped the idea of forming a Palestinian government at this stage. We will postpone it for a little while. The present inclination is to declare the independence document only. Our opinion in Palestinian circles is to wait a while regarding the government issue.

[Jistinyah] What about PLO-Jordanian relations since links were severed?

[Khalaf] As you know, the Palestinians are in agreement with the brothers in Jordan over the establishment of a confederation after an independent Palestinian state is established. Such a step, namely the confederation, would be the most important step at the next stage, that is, after a state is established.

[Jistinyah] Talking of the uprising, what is the level of Arab backing and aid for the uprising?

[Khalaf] First of all, we consider the Palestinian cause every Arab's cause. We fully appreciate any Arab support or aid provided in support of the uprising and those who are standing fast, facing the ugliest kinds of repression and terror every day and sacrificing their lives and property. And here I record my thanks and appreciation to anyone providing support for the uprising.

I thank the Saudi Arabian Kingdom—its king, government, and people—as well as all Arab states. I would like here to say we are doing our best to deliver whatever aid we receive to the occupied territories despite the obstacles and restrictions Israel creates, which everyone is aware of, to prevent the delivery of any aid provided for the uprising.

[Jistinyah] That was the Arab stand and the PLO's role in backing the uprising and its objectives. What about the international position, the American and Soviet stances? How do you see these at present with regard to the Palestinian problem?

[Khalaf] The United States is now at the presidential election stage. It is totally preoccupied with that battle. However, we cannot assess the future U.S. position toward our cause on the basis of the electoral proposals made by George Bush and Michael Dukakis during the election campaign. Although we know the facts about and the firmness of U.S. support for Israel, the statements made by Bush and Dukakis are merely a kind of electoral haggling over the Palestinian question, which is why they are competing in expressing support for Israel.

What concerns us at this stage is what will come after the election and the emergence of the next president. We will then be able to evaluate and assess any change or development in the U.S. position and policy, which is at present totally biased to Israel, toward our people and cause.

[Jistinyah] But do you not sense any change or flexibility in the Soviet position on the Palestinian question?

[Khalaf] The change that is now occurring in the Soviet Union—which is the result of the policy of restructuring, glasnost, and international detente—will be one of the main factors in the process of finding a solution to the Palestinian problem, that is, the Middle East problem. International detente has accustomed us to the fact that it is maintained either at the peoples' expense or in their interests. And that depends first and last on international balances of power.

Under the uprising and in view of the Jordanian decision to cut off links with the West Bank, the PLO has secured considerable power in terms of action in the international arena. I am optimistic about the considerable rapprochement in Palestinian-Soviet views, which will, with the other factors, contribute to convening an international peace conference after the U.S. election.

I emphasize here that Moscow will support any future Palestinian steps. That was confirmed at the recent talks held by the Palestinian delegation headed by Brother Muhammad [as published; should be Mahmud] 'Abbas, "Abu Mazin," in Moscow, which were both positive and fruitful. You probably realize that the Soviet leadership has recently praised the wisdom, balance, and awareness of Palestinian policy. The Soviets have promised to support and back any future political steps the Palestinians may decide on.

I would like to point out here that many stands have now become more supportive of the national rights of the Palestinian people. Within this context lies the stand which the British Labor Party adopted at its recent conference, declaring full support for the Palestinian people's rights and official recognition of the PLO. And I hope such a stand will be the start of a real change in British policy.

Salah Khalaf: Libya Financing West Bank Revolt

LD2510091388 Tripoli JANA in English 0808 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] Rome, Al-Tumur [October] 25, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—"Salah Khalaf"—Abu Iyad—asserted the Great Jamahiriyah was the only Arab country which met its obligations to the raging popular revolution in occupied Palestine.

In an interview with the Italian Channel 3 Radio, Abu Iyad said that Great Jamahiriyah was the only one paying its financial obligations decided at Algiers Arab summit with regards to the popular revolution in occupied Palestine.

PLO To Ask Arab League To Recognize Passport

NC2510081188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0656 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Oct 25 (MENA)—The Palestinine Liberation Organisation (PLO) will request recognition by the Arab League of a Palestinian passport, to be issued by the PLO following the proclamation of an independent Palestinian state in the middle of November, according to informed Palestinian sources.

The sources told "AL-ITTIHAD" newspaper today that this issue had been thoroughly discussed during the recent Palestinian meetings in Tunis, within the context of preparations for holding an extraordinary session of the Palestinian National Council (PNC). The general trend approved the issue of a Palestinian passport to stress Palestinian identity and settle conditions of many Palestinians who do not rpt not carry passports, the sources added.

Abu Sharif on Israeli Raids, PNC Session

JN2110184488 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 Oct 88

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Oct (WAKH)—The PLO has stated that the Israeli attack on southern Lebanon this morning is part of the enemy's plan to influence the popular uprising and obstruct the convocation of the PNC session.

At a news conference this afternoon, Bassam Abu Sharif, information adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, said the Palestinian Revolution Forces, in participation with the joint Lebanese-Palestinian forces, have made all necessary arrangements to confront these attacks.

Abu Sharif said he expects Israel to launch a large-scale ground offensive against southern Lebanon. He said that since yesterday the enemy has been mobilizing its forces in the so-called security belt in southern Lebanon and besieged the area in preparation for attacks on the Palestinian camps.

Reports mention that the Israeli Air Force began raiding the 'Ayn al-Hulwah and Al-Miyah Wa Miyah camps in southern Lebanon this morning, inflicting many casualties.

In reply to questions, Abu Sharif said the mobilization of Israeli forces is taking place at a sensitive stage, that of preparations for the exraordinary PNC session that will discuss the important political steps and options the Palestinian people are facing. He added that the new

PNC session will adopt historic resolutions that will push the Palestinian Arab people's struggle ahead on the road to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

Palestinian officials announced yesterday that the PNC session will be held in Algeria 12-14 November.

Bassam Abu Sharif said the PLO supports Lebanon's unity and any Arab effort in this respect. He said the PLO is ready to exert all efforts to facilitate the attainment by the Lebanese of an agreement among them that will safeguard Lebanon, its Arab affiliation, and independence.

Abu Sharif stressed the need to exert Arab efforts to extricate Lebanon from its current tribulation and to save it from the exclusive domination by one party over its fate. He said such efforts are urgently needed to forestall those who seek to fragment and partition Lebanon. Bassam Abu Sharif said the PLO hopes the Arab League will succeed in its current efforts to save Lebanon.

Bassam Abu Sharif pointed out the Palestinian command took into consideration the date of and the arrangements for the referendum in Algeria on 2 November when setting the date of the extraordinary PNC session. He said the PNC will adopt historic resolutions, particularly with respect to the proclamation of national independence, the formation of the provisional government, and the important political declaration that will be the basis of political moves in the region in the coming years.

Abu Sharif added the political declaration that the PNC will issue will contain important ideas on the establishment of a just peace in the Middle East, the confrontation of the occupation, and the elimination of the obstacles that hamper the establishment of a just peace.

Abu Sharif asserted that the PNC resolutions will give a push to efforts to achieve a just peace. He said: The resolutions will not be obstructive or disruptive, but, contrary to the claims of Yitzhaq Shamir and Shim'on Peres, they will be positive and constructive.

Answering a question on the stands of the new U.S. Administration, Abu Sharif said he is certain that the stands of the new U.S. Administration, if it wants to play a constructive role in pushing forward the peace process, will deal with the new facts in the region, particularly those brought about by the popular uprising inside the occupied territories. Foremost of these facts is that the PLO is the other principal side in the Arab-Israeli conflict. The new facts also affirm that the Palestinian people, like other peoples, have the right to self-determination and to the enjoyment of an independent state.

He expressed the hope that next year will witness important developments in two fields, the first of which is the escalation of the popular resistance against occupation and the second the intensification of international and regional political moves to find a political settlement to the Middle East crisis.

He said: No one can forecast the results of the moves in these two directions, but the PLO hopes that next year will witness the formation of a preparatory committee to convene an international conference for peace in the Middle East. He stressed the PLO will not stand idle, but the Palestinians will take appropriate steps harmonious with Palestinian national interests to wrest their right to self-determination and to establish a Palestinian state.

Answering a question on the PLO's stand toward the Israeli elections, the Palestinian official repeated what PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat said before the European Parliament last month—that he extends his hand for peace.

Abu Sharif said we call on the Israelis to vote for peace, which is based on the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to the establishment of their state. He described Yitzhaq Shamir's threats to crush the Palestinians as "empty and have nothing new."

He said Shamir has not comprehended the facts brought about by developments in the region. These facts were made by the Palestinian people's struggle throughout the long past years. Foremost of these facts is that all Israeli attempts, from 1967 until now, have not only failed to annihilate the Palestinian people, but also have not succeeded in making them stop their resistance against occupation.

The information adviser to the PLO chairman added: We remind Shamir of what Rabin told the Brookings Institute at the beginning of the uprising 11 months ago—that he would destroy the uprising in 2 weeks.

Abu Sharif wondered what Rabin would say now, after the continuation and escalation of the uprising.

He said: Shamir's talk carries nothing new for us. Massacres against our people are carried out daily. Yet, Shamir's threat means a lot to international public opinion, because it clearly reveals the true thinking of Shamir and the current Israeli Government.

PLO Radio on Israeli Raid, Syrian 'Collusion'

JN2110215388 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1942 GMT 21 Oct 88

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Brothers; O masses of our great Palestinian people; O sons of our glorious Arab nation: The Zionist enemy always finds nothing other than Palestinian camps and residential and civilian areas in southern

Lebanon to perpetrate against them the ugliest and most primitive forms of retaliation whenever its troops are subjected to a military fedayeen operation.

We have known this Zionist method a long time ago. We have always warned of the Zionists' retaliatory operations which express nothing other than the Zionists' powerlessness and their inability to face a direct confrontation, as clearly reflected by their criminal nature and their civilizational backwardness.

The question that is always raised is the following: Why do enemy warplanes move freely in the Lebanese skies without being faced with an Arab deterrence at a time when the Syrian forces' antiaircraft missiles are not far away from the skies of southern Lebanon—the missiles that are very near in Al-Biqa' and that can always be used, considering their technical sophistication and their ability to fly to confront the enemy warplanes, if so desired by the Damascus rulers, from their bases in the capital city of Damascus itself?

Why do these sophisticated missiles remain cold steel incapable of doing anything and grounded in their positions, while the Zionist warplanes bombard with utmost brutality and treachery the Palestinian camps and the densely populated Lebanese villages in which children, women, and elderly people live?

Certainly, we are not raising this question to hear a specific answer and we know the facts pertaining to the situation. The answer is clear and well known and the truth has for a long time been plain and obvious. The question is only raised to remind people, nay, to affirm the truth pertaining to the ugly conspiratorial role being played by the Damascus regime in Lebanon and also to stress the truth pertaining to the understanding reached between this accursed sectarian regime and the enemy leaders in Tel Aviv on what has become well known as the red lines and the spheres of influence in Lebanon—the red lines that cannot be ignored by either of the two parties according to the Syrian-Zionist agreement.

What is ironic and painful at the same time are the news reports circulated to the effect that the Syrian forces in Lebanon have been put on high alert following these brutal air raids launched by the enemy warplanes against many Lebanese villages and Palestinian camps in southern Lebanon this morning.

The Syrian forces have been been put on high alert after the enemy warplanes completed their criminal mission against the masses of our steadfast Palestinian-Lebanese people. What an exposed propaganda ploy and what a disgusting disregard for the masses' minds! What a miserable attempt to conceal what can never be concealed; namely, the Damascus regime's impotence and its collusion with the Zionist enemy in all of its ugly aggressions against the sons of our Lebanese-Palestinian people in Lebanon!

For how long will this collusion last, for which we are paying a heavy price in the blood of the masses of our steadfast Palestinian-Lebanese people who are holding out in their positions and who refuse to bow to the enemy's desire and to its hostile will? We salute the simple four-barreled machineguns triggered by the hands of the heroes of the joint Palestinian-Lebanese forces while confronting alone the enemy warplanes to declare that this nation has men who are faithful to its principles and who are relentless with its enemies and that they will continue the struggle and the resistance until the enemy's total defeat is realized in Lebanon and Palestine. Shame and disgrace to the impotent and conniving Damascus rulers and their like!

OPEC Affairs

Reportage on OPEC Pricing, Strategy Meeting

'More' Meetings Needed

AU2110114188 Paris AFP in English 1117 GMT 21 Oct 88

[Text] Madrid, Oct 21 (AFP)—OPEC will need more than just one meeting to thrash out an agreement on production quotas before its 13 members meet in November, Secretary-General Dr. Subroto said here Friday on the second day of a joint meeting of the OPEC pricing and long-term strategy committees.

"From the discussions we had among the ministers bilaterally before the meeting started we feel that we need more than one meeting," Dr. Subroto told a press conference.

The Madrid talks are attended by eight members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries: Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Algeria, Indonesia, Nigeria and Venezuela.

He said "several" meetings might be necessary to settle differences over quotas. A major bone of contention is a Saudi Arabian proposal, backed by the Gulf states, to increase the Iraqi quota to match that of Iran—a move which opponents claim would amount to reducing the share of needy African, Asian and Latin American producers.

He said there was " a very good chance" other meetings would be held before November 21—the date of the regular conference in Vienna.

But Dr. Subroto said the possibility of reaching an agreement in time to "influence the situation in the market for the fourth quarter" could not be ruled out. He said "We'll be able to finalise our first meeting on Saturday," and depending on the outcome, "an extraordinary meeting can certainly be called."

"The important thing is how to maximise revenues in view of supply and demand," he said.

On Thursday, the OPEC Secretariat forecast overall world demand for oil in the fourth quarter as 50.2 million barrels a day (MBD) of which 19.94 MBD would be produced by OPEC and 30.26 MBD by non-OPEC countries. Looking beyond, "there is a possibility to see an increase in demand for OPEC oil for the whole year of 1989," said Dr. Subroto.

Progress Seen Toward Agreement

LD2210220588 Vienna OPECNA in English 2136 GMT 22 Oct 88

[Text] Madrid, 22 Oct. 88 (OPECNA)—The joint meeting of the two OPEC committees on price and long-term strategy which ended here tonight made progress towards achieving a production agreement which would be signed by all 13 members of the organization.

This was confirmed by OPEC Secretary General Dr Subroto at a news conference following the conclusion of the three-day meeting which was attended by eight oil ministers who serve on the two committees.

'We have covered quite a lot of ground in an atmosphere of understanding and a spirit of goodwill. What we have produced will be to the benefit of both producers and consumers,' the secretary general said.

Subroto stated in an answer to a question that there would be 'no increase in OPEC production between now and November when the two committees meet' four days before the OPEC ministers' year-end conference in Vienna.

He said the committees discussed several production ceilings and the prices that would result if one or the other was adopted. The 18-dollar price, he asserted, 'remains the target, but we are also working on a range'.

Iran Presents New Proposals

LD2310102988 Tehran IRNA in English 0840 GMT 23 Oct 88

[Text] Madrid, Oct. 24, [date as received] IRNA—The joint pricing and strategy-making committees of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) ended its work here Saturday night [22 October]. At the end of the three rounds of talks, another meeting was set to follow up discussions on November 17.

The meeting started Thursday in the presence of eight OPEC oil ministers at the Algerian Embassy failed to achieve any agreement on the production ceiling and oil prices.

OPEC Secretary General Dr Subroto said in a press conference that numerous proposals were discussed in their talks and that they will decide about them in the forthcoming meet in Vienna.

He described Iraq's demand for an equal quota with Iran not only a problem for Iran but an issue related to all OPEC members.

Meanwhile a member of Iranian delegation to the talks said one of the main issues of discussion was that Iraq should return to the quota system so that the 13 member countries could have an identical viewpoint at the November meet.

He stressed OPEC ministers have realised the depth of the current crisis in oil market and that all of them had agreed on the need for taking serious measures in this regard.

During the OPEC meet here Iran presented proposals to improve the market situation and create changes in it which was welcomed by participants. Another member of the Iranian delegation announced dissatisfaction with the existing atmosphere in the negotiations and results of separate meetings of Iran's Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh with some of his counterparts at OPEC during recent days.

He once again stressed Iran's opposition with allocation of an equal production quota with Iran to Iraq.

Iran, Algeria, Indonesia, Venezuella, Iraq, Saudi Arabi, Kuwait and Nigeria were present at the talks.

Iran's Aqazadeh on Meeting

LD2310115288 Tehran IRNA in English 1133 GMT 23 Oct 88

[Text] Madrid, Oct. 23, IRNA—New proposals have been put forward to settle the issue of oil over-production by Iraq which has been a major cause of market instability and a drop in prices. Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh said Sunday members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) were determined to find a solution for the present weakness in the oil market.

"There was a lot of discussion on setting a quota for Iraq and new proposals were given to Iraq whose oil minister will study them and deliver his reply in a meeting on November 17," Aqazadeh said.

Oil ministers from Iran, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, Iraq, Indonesia, Kuwait and Nigeria, members of pricing and strategy committees, have been meeting since Thursday to find a way out of the current slump.

He said neither Iran nor Iraq were under any pressure to accept a new quota and the issue of equal production limits for the two "was not discussed on a wide scale."

Iraq, with the backing of its allies within the 13-member organization, has been insisting on a production ceiling equal to Iran's. Tehran has rejected this on the grounds that Iran's population is three times bigger than Iraq's.

Aqazadeh told IRNA that the meeting which ended Saturday night was a particularly straightforward session and participants were "seriously upset" by the market situation.

The most important issue raised by Iran was the organisation's credibility. "It is clear that whenever an agreement is signed, all members should implement it."

All OPEC members believe OPEC's quota system should be respected. A realistic production ceiling suitable for next year's market demand was also discussed.

Aqazadeh plans to leave for Tehran on Monday.

Algerian Minister on Prices

LD2410044988 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 1900 GMT 23 Oct 88

[Text] The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, OPEC, may change its current policy of a universal price for its product and adopt a range of prices, according to Belkacem Nabi, Algerian minister of energy, who spoke in Madrid after the meeting in the Spanish capital of the group's prices committee, which lasted until yesterday.

The Algerian minister spoke of the need to establish mechanisms to control prices and production among the OPEC countries and also of his opinion on reaching an agreement with other countries not belonging to the organization—essential questions to stabilize world energy markets.

The Arabian Gulf countries have proposed a production quota of 17,400,000 bpd, according to Nabi, who described this figure as very acceptable. The Algerian minister cited the Iran-Iraq conflict as one of the problems discussed at the Madrid meeting and expressed his confidence in Iraq rejoining OPEC which, in his opinion, will greatly help solve the organization's problems.

The rerpesentatives of these petroleum exporting countries will meet again on 21 November, but Vienna will be the setting for that meeting.

Iran Agrees to Equal Quota

LD2410175988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] According to IRNA, Oil Minister Aqazadeh announced before leaving Madrid that the Islamic Republic of Iran agrees to Iraq having an oil export quota equal to Iran.

He added: What the Islamic Republic of Iran is opposed to is Iraq having an equal quota to Iran for the production of crude oil. Explaining the issue, the oil minister said: At the moment, Iraq is unofficially producing 2.6 million barrels per day of which 300,000 barrels are used for domestic consumption and the other 2.3 million barrels are exported.

Iran's production is 2,369,000 barrels per day, which, in view of the 1 million barrels per day domestic consumption makes our country's oil exports in fact equivalent to 1,369,000 barrels per day. On this basis, we are, in practice, selling approximately 1 million barrels less oil than Iraq.

He added: what Iraq is officially demanding is an equivalent oil production quota to that of Iran, in which case, due to Iraq's lower domestic consumption in comparison to Iran, that country would in fact be selling 700,000 barrels more than Iran.

Our country's oil minister stressed: If OPEC sets Iraq's oil production quota at 2.3 million barrels per day then Iran's oil production quota must be 3.0. In that case, the two countries would have an equal oil export level.

In conclusion, Aqazadeh added: On the basis of the official quota, Iraq may export 1,569,000 barrels per day. This is under circumstances in which Iran's oil export level is 1,369,000 barrels per day; that is, only 100,000 barrels [as heard] more than Iraq.

Algeria

Presidency Defines 'Main Elements' of Reform

LD2410224188 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Numbering as heard]

[Text] In accordance with the speech to the nation by the president and FLN secretary general on 10 October 1988, and in accordance with the statement issued on 12 October, the Presidency today issued a statement defining the main elements in the second part of the proposed political reform plan which will be discussed at the popular level and at the FLN party congress—in accordance with basic laws—before being submitted to the people in a referendum.

The proposed reforms require deep changes in the organization of national institutions and political action so that all forces in the country can participate equally in national political life. Naturally, this will lead to amending the national charter, the Constitution, as well as the laws, particularly the electoral law. These reforms—when ratified—will lead to the organization of popular consultations for the sake of democratically renewing the elected council and for consolidating its powers.

1. Authentic, effective grassroots democracy. The purpose of issuing this communique, which defines the principle elements, is to enable militants to more effectively take part in the congress.

The people's firm determination, the continuation of our revolution's true path, and the current structural characteristics in our society require the strengthening of effective democracy and broadening its role in public life. This matter concerns all rational forces in the nation without any preference or exception. These forces are encouraged to continually take part in debates and political choices. This matter provides an opportunity at all levels for free expression and the people's supervision of the exercise of authority. This is taking place within the framework of a large mobilization, while respecting the individual choices of the overwhelming majority of citizens so that the system will not monopolize power.

Being free of bureaucratic pressures and relying on the progressive struggling cadres in the FLN, the militants are now committed to organizing the front to make it a force of transformation and decisive change. This force would mobilize the majority among the national political forces and compel the other movements to define their stands and express their ideas at the grassroots level. The effort to make the FLN a more authentic representative force should aim at achieving the largest possible membership, while preserving a permanent vigil over national unity and the homeland's independence and sovereignty.

From this point of view, the new path must galvanize the majority to support one social program and one political action program which preserves fundamental principles and allows movements and groups to express themselves. Furthermore, this program compels these movements and groups to do so. It also will simplify the settling of conflicts through real democratic dialogue at all levels.

This path must combat movements which reject these fundamental principles and these objectives through a clear political dialogue, choices, and programs. The vitality of dialogue highlights rational political forces, consolidates them, renews them, and always adapts them to social changes. It is this which gives the FLN its position and shape.

The success of the mission to authenticate the FLN rests in achieving dynamic political action and grassroots mobilization to maintain a broad dialogue with all rational forces in the nation—without any favoritism or exception—and thanks to free elections at the various levels of responsibility in the FLN.

It is vital that the FLN's operating procedures should be kept totally separate from the concepts of taken for granted situations, before-hand granted rights, and from the conception of the ruling party which shoulders the responsibility of the actions of the executive apparatus and its shortcomings.

In this way, thanks to field political work the militants will acquire support from various social groups and from the interest in the joining of capable and reliable people, and not from the multiplication of frozen structures.

The same course and procedures should, as a matter of course, apply to the work of popular organizations so that, from now on, they are liberated from any organizational stipulations imposed on their activities and the ways by which their leaders are appointed. The effort to authenticate [ta'sil] the FLN is not at variance with the prospect that political work at the base may led to political pluralism.

In this way, such development would be the result of effective democratic work which guarantees stability and freedoms without harming the social ladder, the unity of the people, and national independence. Consequently, under no circumstances can political pluralism be established with circles that aim at obtaining privileges under the framework of superficial democracy fed by demagogic excesses and regional and factional fanaticisms.

The overwhelming majority, which is still inculcated with the high principles of the November Revolution—youths, intellectuals, workers in the productive sector, local and central administration civil servants, craftsmen, self-employed workers, and all patriots—finds itself in this historic phase in a democratic FLN, an FLN open to political and social progress and able to confront current and future challenges. The FLN, however, will only be able to do this if it can organize itself with the required speed and enable the people to exercise their rights and political responsibilities fully.

2. Democratic organization for political action. The people are rich in terms of their political consciousness and abilities to foresee and rationally evaluate. This enables it to undergo great modifications—political and social—in the context of social peace and national unity. The FLN should be able to create a consensus among Algerians through openness, dialogue, and the exchange of ideas to achieve aims and rectify the results of mistakes and past wrongs.

1. Therefore it should be freed from the tendency of practicing direct domination, according to the law, over the responsibilities in the state apparatus, and over the elected councils, the economy, and the social and professional organizations. The FLN strugglers who believe in its thoughts can naturally assume these responsibilities by virtue of their efficiency, which they regularly prove, and thanks to their ability to impose themselves in open competitions. Assuming these responsibilities requires this.

2. Within the understanding of this logic, the FLN organization should quite openly cease matching the administrative organization with the regional organization of the state apparatus.

3. The FLN should show concern for the demand for effective political action, and its requirements should comply with giving preference to the mobilization of its own strugglers at the work place and in society and among the social and professional organizations, instead of giving preference to its own organizational structures. In this way, political action for mobilization and for joining in the field of life will be free from bureaucratic measures or administrative calls.

4. These necessary transformations will lead to envisaging flexible structures for thinking, activation, and coordination capable of permanent adaptation to the development and strengthening of political action in the field.

5. The FLN should reconsider its action methods by becoming vigilant, giving attention to understanding citizens' affairs, analyzing what interest them, and organizing what is necessary for taking care of these interests within the framework of the FLN action programs. for this reason the FLN should be freed from participating in the direct management of the state apparatus at all levels.

By so doing it can open dialogue, instigate the rank and file to explain the real and urgent issues and debate them, avoid excesses, exaggerations, and all forms of violence, and promote economic and social activities and make them more effective and better adapted to the real circumstances prevailing in society. In the same way it can face up to opposing tendencies as far as the real problems of society are concerned, and can fight the demagogic demands which upset stability and disturb popular harmony.

6. So political action will always be accompanied by a real discussion of opinions and will always able to take care of social developments, particularly those of youths and workes, such political action by the FLN's internal organization must be strong enough to face up to the new challenge with instruments that permit all political tendencies and orientations—which at the very end share with it the main aspects of its goals and program—to participate. In this given framework, some militants from those various tendencies and orientations will emerge without exception or distinction. Furthermore they will have the right to join the FLN Party during the internal discussions.

7. Proceeding from this, three types will emerge:

First: The first is the need to provide an apparatus which can always adapt to the political action and its intensity.

Second: The second revolves around the conditions for joining the FLN Party—joining is voluntary, and all citizens have the right to do so. It may take place, as a general rule, from within a public or vocational organization and/or as a result of social organization activities, and/or on the basis of carrying out an economic, social, or cultural duty. Joining should take place in accordance with the citizens' initiative as well as the initiatives of the FLN Party's cells on the basis of adherence to the fundamental principles of the National Charter, in accordance with our people's moral values, as well as integrity. Expulsions will be announced after a vote among the militants.

Third: The third, which is engendred by the previous type, revolves around the generalization of absolute rule, which stipulates a free vote for all militants, regardless of their political orientations and tendencies, or whether they are among the Front's leadership or at any other level.

All FLN posts are held following a vote, and all its bodies are elected. The FLN statutes should also, within the context of this democratic logic, contain the same electoral rules dealing with the termination of duties at all levels. The right to candidacy for election constitutes the main pillar, which would allow the mobilization of all tendencies and its affiliation to the FLN's goals and programs, and will, furthermore, also be an instrument for fighting inflexibility and stagnation and effectively allow the continuous renewal of the leadership apparatus, which will permit the continuous transformation of society.

8. The social and vocational organizations should enjoy independence of organization and freedom of elections to ensure the true expression of the opinions, attitudes, and

interests of their members. This must conform with the aim of creating flexible organs capable of continuous adjustment with the vitality of the dialogue in the field and accomodating the various tendencies and orientations.

In this respect it is necessary to stress the emergence of conditions of renovation which allow the promotion and development of youth and students' organizations. The separation of responsibilities within the social and vocational organization and within the Front—whether in the basic rules or in the forthcoming statute of the National Liberation Front must be defined most clearly. In this sense, it is of great significance. The logic of the relations between the social and vocational organizations and the front must respect and enhance the political reform.

This political action will find its foundation by adopting attitudes and defending interests at the work places within these organizations and then spread to express itself within the front. Through this vitality the programs of action of the front will benefit by the political dialogue about the real problems of society. And in this manner, the question of mobility of the members and leaders of the social and vocational organizations and of the front will also automatically be settled without the need for binding legal rules. Consequently the leaders of these organizations may or may not be members or leaders in the front.

9. This dynamism will enable the social and vocational organizations to adapt to the deep changes in the demands, programs of action, and objectives of the various social and vocational organizations, and consequently to divide or amalgamate themselves, thus realizing the vital multiplicity of the means of expression making the National Liberation Front listen to the movement of social realities and enhancing its ability to attract the various tendencies, thus ensuring and maintaining its pioneering role.

10. Within the context of the multiplicity of the channels of expressing and of enhancing social life, the militants of the National Liberation Front should attach the utmost importance to encouraging and developing the societies in all fields.

11. The nature of the National Liberation Front's role regarding the elected councils is to advance the issue of democratic public life. The front will promote democratic activity in all fields and at all levels within organizations which will be unburdened by bureaucracy. The opportunity will be open, at all levels, for free nominations for the election of municipal councils irrespective of whether these nominations are backed by the National Liberation Front or not. The Front has the right to propose its own candidates and conduct an election campaign for their benefit. It can also campaign for other candidates, or against them.

12. Concerning the organization of the Algerian community abroad multifaceted organizations should be fully encouraged and supported. One must respect the freedom of affiliation and the freedom to elect their representatives. One must express continuous interest in the concerns of this community and consolidate its bond with the homeland and with its realities.

The freedom of these associations and their representatives to belong to suitable forums enables them to strengthen their ability to defend their interests, to improve the coordination of their actions, and to facilitiate contact with various institutions of the homeland.

Egypt

France's Mitterrand Arrives; Mubarak Comments

NC2510124088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1220 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Excerpts] Ismailia, 25 Oct (MENA)—French President Francois Mitterrand and the delegation accompanying him arrived at Abu Suwayr air base at 1330 today for a visit of several hours. President Mubarak led the party which received the French president upon his arrival. [passage omitted]

On his arrival at Abu Suwayr air base, President Mubarak made statements to journalists, lauding the French president's visit to Egypt. He said that the Aqaba tripartite meeting was the result of previous efforts with King Husayn of Jordan and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. He also said: I had met with 'Arafat twice previously, and we had also exchanged many messages prior to this meeting regarding the PLO's situation, the international conference, the delegations which would participate in it, the situation of the Palestinian people, and the effects of the Palestinian uprising.

Answering a question on the link between these meetings and the Israeli elections, President Mubarak said: Let us not talk about the Israeli elections. These elections are one thing and my meetings in Aqaba are something completely different. The Aqaba meeting was planned without any consideration for the elections, whether in Israel or the United States. I meant this meeting to bring about a meeting between the parties to achieve mutual understanding and boost the peace process, because without this understanding the peace process will be far more complicated.

Mubarak Discusses Palestinian, Arab Politics

JN2210175488 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 20 Oct 88 p 3

["First part" of interview with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak by AL-AHRAM chief editor Ibrahim Nafi'—date, place not given]

[Text] [Nafi'] How does the president view Israel's intentions concerning a prompt implementation of the international tribunal's verdict on Egypt's sovereignty over Tabah?

[Mubarak] I believe Israel will implement the arbitration tribunal's verdict because this is what is legally and politically required. Otherwise arbitration would become meaningless. The arbitration compromise signed by the two countries provided for a particular method to guarantee the implementation of the ruling. It also included particular procedures that must be followed in case a dispute arose about implementation. The most important procedure is that the two sides must agree on an implementation date within 21 days after the issuance of the verdict.

If a dispute arises between them about the interpretation or implementation of the ruling it becomes each party's right to resort to the tribunal within 30 days after it issues its verdict, to request it to give clarifications capable of facilitating the implementation of the ruling. The tribunal must do that within 45 days.

Israel doubtless realizes that its procrastination in implementing the verdict will make it lose its credibility as a state that abides by its commitments, and if it does that with Egypt, the first Arab country to take the initiative to make peace, how will it act with other parties? In addition, failure to implement the ruling will, whether we like it or not, harm relations between the two countries and damage Israel's image before Egyptian citizens. Does Israel want this to happen?

We must not forget that the method we followed in resolving this issue did not come out of a vacuum but was in implementation of a clear provision in the peace treaty devoted to clarifying the method of resolving any disputes that might arise between the two sides regarding interpreting or implementing the treaty's articles. If Israel refuses to implement the verdict issued by the arbitration ribunal, it will be violating a basic provision of the peace treaty with all the legal consequences that such a violation incurs

For all these reasons, Egypt has taken care to protect its rights and has notified Israel of its willingness to implement the ruling within a specified time, requesting it to make a similar undertaking. The arbitration tribunal has also been notified of the situation so that it will maintain its legal authority over the issue until it is implemented. I believe that Israel will take action within the next few days with regard to implementing its commitments.

[Nafi'] You said, Mr President, that you are still extending your hand to Syria and Hafiz al-Asad. Are there contacts or mediations aimed at bringing views closer?

[Mubarak] We generally deal with the Arab brothers in the belief that the interests of all the Arab are the same and that there can be no genuine contradiction between the interests of one Arab nation and another. This is particularly true for Syria, for there are a number of objective factors that underline the importance of these ties in a very special way. It is also hard to overlook the special rapport which I had with President al-Asad for years, during which many important events in the history of our Arab people have taken place.

Such special relations make a good case for why the two countries should behave toward each other in a particular way despite any differences of opinion. Any difference in views, Mubarak said, will necessarily be on methods and means rather than goals and ends. In other words, these are tactical and not strategic differences, Mubarak noted, pointing out that maintaining a certain minimum of decorum is a goal that can only be achieved by efforts by both sides and not by one side only.

Regardless of how eager we are to have a working relationship with Syria, we can accomplish nothing if Syria does not show a reciprocal desire. The way to achieve such a task is to establish channels for direct communication and dialogue between the two sides on all issues of common concern.

This is what I told President al-Asad when I chanced to meet him during the ICO summit meeting in Kuwait in January 1986. There is no need for mediation by third parties or individuals who think they can work miracles. Actually, in many instances mediation has undermined the very cause of improving relations, for some mediators have misrepresented the situations and were not exact in their account of events or relay of information. In some instances, people even undertook mediation efforts without being asked to and without anyone's knowledge that they would embark on any mediation. Naturally, matters of state cannot be handled in such a flawed manner.

[Nafi'] Is there any hope of establishing good relations between Egypt and Libya?

[Mubarak] In principle, the general rules I mentioned regarding ties between Egypt and any Arab countries apply to Libya as well. But in the real world it is not quite so. We have to have unmistakable evidence that the other party is faithfully moving in the desired direction. No such evidence has been forthcoming, despite all the opportunities which arose during the past years.

If the question was referring to reports of mediation by some Arab brothers to improve the atmosphere of Egyptian- Libyan relations, the course of this mediation is absolutely discouraging so far. The brothers who undertook such a mediation have themselves discovered this and are shocked.

Last Ramadan Colonel al-Qadhdhafi approached an Arab figure for whom we have much respect and appreciation: my brother, His Excellency Shaykh Zayid Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE. The colonel asked Shaykh Zayid to mediate between Libya and Egypt, and the shaykh obliged out of a pan-Arab sense of duty and a completely unselfish desire to see harmony in ties among Arab nations.

Shaykh Zayid sent his minister of state for foreign affairs with a kind message to this effect. And, despite years of bitter experience, I decided, out of respect for Shaykh Zayid, to give his mediation every possible chance. We spoke positively to Zayid's envoy, but when this envoy went to Tripoli he was stunned by the unwillingness of the colonel to meet him or talk to him. No Libyan official met or talked to him.

Could anyone claim, after all that, that there is any seriousness to the Libyan talk about better ties? Is there still room for more mediation?

Some people like to appoint themselves mediators and talk about plans and proposals. These mediations, however, do not stand on firm ground and they are often fabricated and do not conform to the facts and reality.

It is my opinion that the issue is not one of mediations and interventions by this or that party because the matter is much simpler. If Col Al-Qadhdhafi is sincere in his intention to work for the improvement of relations, then he knows the road leading to this improvement. All he has to do is stop offending Egypt and its people. His experience should have taught him that such offenses and absurdities, which the ambitious and rancorous have uttered at various times, have not harmed Egypt but have backfired. Egypt is not an entity that can be shaken or affected at all by such trivialities.

I hope the colonel is aware that there is a certain limit beyond which he cannot go in offending Egypt, because Egypt grants a respite but it does not forget. There is a limit to what we can accept. If the object is to shout over a microphone in the most repungant voice, this will not benefit him at all and it will not harm Egypt. If he insists on wasting the Libyan people's money on absurdities and comical adventures in various parts of the world, then this is his business. However, the must abide by his limits and I believe that he knows these limits.

[Nafi'] What concepts have you formed after your recent visit to Iraq and meeting with Saddam Husayn? Will peace between Iraq and Iran last, allowing the march of peace and progress in the Gulf region to continue?

[Mubarak] A warm friendship, which developed over the years as a result of common experiences, ties me to my brother, President Saddam Husayn. I am very proud of this noble Arab brother who is distinguished for his bravery, sincerity, and penetrating vision.

I emerged from my recent meeting with him in Baghdad fully convinced that Iraq wants peace and that it most sincerely seeks to establish it. If it had wanted to continue the war, it would not have been difficult for it to do so. Everybody knows that Iraq agreed to end the war when it was in a strong military position, permitting it to take the initiative when it had the upper hand.

From my talks with Saddam, I realized that Iraq does not seek to take anything which does not belong to it. It also does not want to violate the rights of Iran or anybody else. Iraq believes that for peace to be firm and stable, it must be based on respect for rights and duties, on abidance by legitimacy, and on refraining from imposing a fait accompli by force or threats. Briefly, Iraq does not seek to commit aggression, but rather it defends its rights and sanctities. It is in this way defending the basic rights of the Arab nation and seeking to consolidate the principle of legitimacy and abidance by the rule of law. This is the only acceptable basis for governing relations among states.

The Iraqi-Iranian war has exhausted the Gulf area and drained its resources. It was our earnest wish that Iran would agree to end the war earlier to cut losses. What is important now is that all should turn their attention to the battle of reconstruction and to the resumption of the development process. When I was in Baghdad, I sensed a sincere desire to embark on such an action, which is no less ferocious than war. Anyone who mobilizes all his resources for building and reconstruction cannot be accused of impeding the peace process.

We all know that Iraq was subjected to an unjust campaign in recent months and that feeble charges were made against it. Despite this, Iraq stayed firm in its efforts to establish peace, and it did not permit this campaign to drag it to side issues, which are of no avail.

[Nafi'] The Palestinian uprising is now in its 11th month. What are the results of your recent talks with Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]? What are the possible solutions during the coming period?

[Mubarak] The first fact that the Palestinian uprising has revealed, has been the Palestinian people's absolute rejection of the continued occupation in all its forms. This happened after some people inside and outside Israel propounded a false theory that all the Palestinians living under occupation ask is the improvement of their living conditions. At the same time, the Palestinian people have demonstrated their awareness and ability to rise to the level of responsibility, when the same masses who carried out the uprising called for a political solution to the crisis. This means that the people living under occupation are struggling and resisting to attain peace, not to threaten any other people.

This situation has provided an historic opportunity for the Middle East to move from the current situation of anxiety and instability to a new situation in which creative coexistence among all the peoples of the region would be realized.

We look at this region and our hearts are filled with sorrow and pain when we see the loss of life and destruction of resources at a time when other regions are making great strides toward development, progress, and the assimilation of modern technology, which has become a necessity of life in this modern era and without which it is impossible to make any progress. Is it the fate of these peoples to waste their resources and capabilities in futile pursuits?

My discussions with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat revolved around the options available to the Arabs to push the situation onward toward peace.

I was concerned to clarify two points which I believe are very important in this regard. The first is that the PLO, now that it has assumed full responsibility, must make very accurate calculations before it makes any move. Its responsibility is no longer restricted to adopting protesting or objecting stances. It must take the daring and positive steps which are required for the sake of the Palestinian people's future. Before the PLO adopts any particular decision, it must take into account the effects and echoes in various circles. The PLO no longer speaks only to the Palestinian people or to the Arab peoples. It now address all the countries which support Palestinian rights and those countries which are still hesitating to do so.

The second point is that any rational Palestinian policy must acknowledge the special nature of the Palestinian-Jordanian relationship and the fact that Jordan has a basic role to play in attaining peace. He noted that it is wrong to imaging that such a Jordanian role will diminish the Palestinian one. Actually, it supports and strengthens the Palestinian role because Jordan is an Arab country whose king enjoys respect in various parts of the world. The Jordanian monarch has the power to influence positively the stances of numerous countries.

It is certain there is no conflict between Jordanian and Palestinian interests. Both sides have a definite interest in achieving Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and the establishment of a Palestinian state that will be linked with Jordan by a relationship determined by the two peoples. In addition, Jordan has long borders with Israel, which must be secured and defended.

I have concluded from talks I have had with His Majesty King Husayn and the Palestinian brothers that the allegations claiming that there is no Arab partner in the peace process are false. The next few days will witness a reinforcement of the presence of such an Arab partner, who has the ability to represent the Arab position in peace negotiations. He added that Israel must reach a decision and proclaim that it is choosing the path of peace and is willing to accept its consequences and commitments. The Arab partner exists and is willing to make positive moves. The other party must now make a step forward and stop hesitating.

[Nafi'] What about Egyptian-Sudanese relations?

[Mubarak] We support our brothers in Sudan with all our strength and in all fields. I believe that Egypt was the first state to rush to the aid of Sudan after the flood disaster. This was tantamount to a call by us to all the world to appreciate the difficulties through which Sudan was passing.

I will not be exaggerating if I say that our call made the whole world turn to fraternal Sudan and provide it with urgent aid. I have heard that some in Sudan say Egypt has given us little support. They might not be aware that Egyptian support for Sudan so far places Egypt in second place among world states which provided aid, despite our known economic conditions.

We were very happy with the contribution by the Egyptian private sector and citizens. We hope our brothers in Sudan will overcome this crisis, and we also hope that their problems in the south will end. We are helping as much as we can. I hope all these problems will end and conditions will stabilize in Sudan so that it may direct all its potential toward full development, progress, and prosperity.

[Nafi'] After the recent events in Lebanon, what do you think should be done to avoid the disaster of partition and to restore Lebanese sovereignty over Lebanese territory?

[Mubarak] I have only two words to say, and I will say them briefly and very sincerely. To all the forces in Lebanon, I say: Take your hands off Lebanon and let its people manage their own affairs because they do not need anybody's tutelage or guidance. The management of its own affairs will not be difficult for the fraternal country, which is one of the seven founding members of the Arab League, and which has been in the forefront of Third World countries where democracy developed and flourished.

Those who want to control matters in Lebanon and exploit its tragedy to serve their own interests must understand that the partitioning of Lebanon will backfire and harm them sooner or later because giving free rein to the calls of partition and sectarian and racist segregation will not stop at specific political limits, but is bound, if it continues and grows, to sweep everybody in its path.

It is our opinion that it is not important that I choose this or that man as the president of Lebanon or the speaker of its Chamber of Deputies. What is important is that I leave this choice to the Lebanese people to exercise it in a free and responsible manner. Therefore, the deals concluded among external forces will only complicate the situation further and add fuel to the fire, which has already burned all that is dry and green in this fraternal country. Egypt stands alongside the Lebanese people with all their communities and factions for their right to a free choice and independent decision. We are trying to plant this concept in all the influential circles.

The Arab leaders should agree to a special and urgent meeting to discuss the Lebanese question and adopt a firm decision concerning it. The Lebanese question is not one of courtesy to Syria or anyone else, but it is a question of an Arab state which is being subjected to dismemberment after having been deceived by foreign interference. I say once more that after meeting to discuss the issue of Lebanon and what takes place there, the Arab leaders must adopt a clear decision in support of Lebanon. It must not be an emotional decision favoring this or that state, but it must observe the interests of a fraternal state which has been subjected to all kinds of destruction and devastation.

[Nafi'] How do you view our relations with the two superpowers at the beginning of the age of detente, particularly our relations with the USSR?

[Mubarak] Our relations with the superpowers are based on the same principle that governs our relations with other countries which lie beyond the circles of our direct national cultural affiliation. According to this principle, Egypt is prepared to establish relations of understanding and cooperation with all countries and peoples without exception, as long as the other side is prepared to sincerely respect Egypt's sovereignty, dignity, and independence. Egypt can never be a satellite state or taken for granted. The principles of equality and mutual respect must be observed in day-to-day dealings with it.

As long as the two superpowers observe this principle, we are prepared to extend bridges of cooperation with each one without any complexes or sensitivities, because such cooperation will be beneficial to us and to the formulation of relationships between the developing states and the superpowers.

The world is undoubtedly passing through a few stage unwitnessed since the start of World War II, a state that demands from us all the adoption of a positive stand and contribution consistent with our capabilities and responsibilities.

Egypt and the other nonaligned countries have been among the first to call for the lessening of international tension and the establishment of a common ground acceptable to the principal international powers. Therefore, it is natural that the nonaligned states should play a tangible role in smoothing the path for detente and in adding certain touches to it. It is unbecoming of these states to become spectators regarding of war and peace, backwardness and progress.

We have a definite view of the role which the nonaligned group must play in this regard. We also have specific initiatives which we will undertake following consultations with the parties concerned. I raised these ideas for discussion in the talks which I held with the Yugoslav leaders during my recent visit to Belgrade.

[Nafi'] Could you shed more light on these initiatives and ideas?

[Mubarak] We cannot anticipate events because moves on such issues should be carefully measures in accordance with estimates based on scientific calculations. When these ideas are crystallized in their final form and after consultations among the concerned parties, they will have a positive, constructive effect.

[Nafi'] Is the United States still the state with which we have special relations?

[Mubarak] Our relations with the United States are characterized by friendship and coperation. For the sake of history and truth, I must say that the United States does not try to impose any decision on us. It does not seek to restrict our freedom of action and choice, nor does it try to impose on us any field of cooperation that is incompatible with our interests and views. In this regard, we find that the cooperation between the two countries constitutes a positive phenomenon that will benefit the two peoples and does not harm anyone. This cooperation is not limited to bilateral relations. It has often benefited friendly third parties. On several occasion, I contacted President Reagan and his senior aides on matters pertaining to Arab, Islamic, or African states, and the U.S. response was often helpful.

[Nafi'] What about Mitterrand's visit to Cairo, the issues you will discuss with him, and France's position on Arab issues?

[Mubarak] President Mitterrand is a first class stateman who has broad experience and a comprehensive friend, and I am proud of the relationship that has been established between us over the years.

Undoubtedly, one of the factors that deepens this relationships is the close proximity between the two countries' views on many international issues, such as those pertaining to international peace and security, the settlement of international and regional conflicts, and cooperation between industrial and progressive northern states and the developing Third World countries. Therefore, I find myself agreeing with President Mitterrand in the views he presents and the perspectives from which he views many important problems.

Views Domestic Issues

JN2310155288 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
21 Oct 88 pp 3, 6, 7

["Second part" of interview with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak by AL-AHRAM chief editor Ibrahim Nafi'—date, place not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Nafi'] Some have recently tried to liken the Algerian events to those of Egypt, while others have begun to compare between the situation in Algeria to that in Egypt. Some have even gone farther and tried, directly or indirectly, to suggest that Egypt might encounter the same thing as Algeria because of the austerity measures, shortage of foodstuffs, and wage freeze.

President Mubarak: First, I would like to state that what is happening in Algeria is completely different from what is happening here. The situation of the two countries is also different. There is no scope at all for comparison. Excuse me for not wishing to talk about this subject, but I would like to tell the Egyptian citizen to rest assured, because the state is exerting tremendous efforts for every citizen on the soil of this country. It is also carrying out development under the most difficult circumstances. I am very optimistic over the future. All that we should do is to bear the burden during the current transitional years. We have to work. [passage omitted]

[Nafi'] It is being reiterated by some circles that you will make a number of important decisions during the next few months. These include a reshuffle of the government and the People's Assembly Bureau. Here we add a question on the priorities the president will place before the People's Assembly at the beginning of its next session.

President Mubarak: This is the first time I have heard about that. Suppose I were thinking of something like this, how would they be able to know what I am thinking? I do not speak to deceive people. I will declare designations in my speech before the People's Assembly at the beginning of its next session. It is natural to have new government and People's Assembly designations at every parliamentary session for the sake of promoting production and facilitating the citizens' affairs. Those who are propagating rumors should wait for the speech. As for talk about changes, what do these changes mean?

[Nafi'] We sometimes say that change is in itself required.

President Mubarak: I shall make important changes at close intervals, but I do not make changes except for reasons. Public welfare is for me the basis dictating whether I should make changes or not. You may recall what they said about the late Fu'ad Muhyi al-Din for a long time. When he died, they admitted that the man exerted tremendous efforts. I do not look at an official's sense of humor, shape, or speaking ability. What concerns me is his ability to work, and as long as the official is working with his utmost effort, I hold him in great esteem. I will not be embarrassed to tell the one who does not work, even if he is my friend: Stop, for your time is up and you have to quit. I do not make changes just for the sake of change. [passage omitted]

[Nafi'] What about your recent announcement on developing and increasing the effectiveness of the NDP?

President Mubarak: We have introduced changes in the secretaries and elections of local councils. Change is constant and requires continuous changes in the party.

[Nafi'] But you are going to make changes in the party....

President Mubarak: I will change, and I continue to make changes.

[Nafi'] Shall we say soon?

President Mubarak: Do not say tomorrow or the day after. I cannot tell you when, because whenever I say something, I find people who hasten to make explanations and interpretations that get us into whirlpools.

[Nafi'] Giving first priority to the people's interests, and especially public security, necessarily pushes us to talk about the domestic front, in light of terrorist attempts and violations by some extremist groups.

President Mubarak: Be assured that we are fully alert to the terrorist groups. I have made it clear that there is no room for terrorism. The government will handle any terrorist attempt with severity because the country cannot tolerate such extremism. It is regrettable that a small group of people exploit the naivete and suffering of some youths. But, thank God, we see many of these youths retract every day after the facts appear before them. However, though only through the law, I will never be soft with terrorism. Any encroachment on the security of any citizen or any position, and any explicit or implicit incitement to aggression is an act of aggression against the entire people, in their present and future.

I will never relent with those who want evil for Egypt; these people have no place on Egyptian soil. Those who want good and safety for Egypt are most welcome. Egypt has its special circumstances. Its progress, its protection from any tampering, and a solution to its problems depend on stability. It is the duty of all of us to work together to achieve this stability and uproot terrorism. Yes to purposeful dialogue, and no to all methods that seek destruction and sabotage. Egypt has paid heavily to build its facilities and borrowed money that must be repaid. It can never allow the loss of the people's property or any attack against this property.

[Nafi'] What is the latest on rescheduling the debts, and do you have any instructions to reduce dependence on loans?

President Mubarak: First, we only borrow now when it is highly necessary. Second, the party that borrows must be able to pay back, and that is enough. For example, in one of my visits to a certain governorate, I asked the governor whether he was able to pay back in foreign currency a loan he wanted for a certain project. I told him that he should not wait for the government to pay it back, as used to be the case. When the governor stressed that he was able to pay it back, it was not logical to reject his obtaining the loan.

[Nafi'] I believe the capital investment companies could have made a serious contribution to financing the plan's ambitious objectives. Admittedly, some of them moved to reorganize their affairs in accordance with the prescribed regulations. Some people, however, doubt that others will continue to exist. What do you think?

President Mubarak: I was asked the same question by the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM. I said then and I repeat: We are not against capital investment companies so long as they do business correctly. We are interested in the safety of depositors' money. Some of the companies that fear regulation in the public interest can place their capital in the banks. We want nothing from them. They are depositors' funds. There is no embargo against projects that benefit these depositors. What we feared most was a continuation of collecting people's money and paying out high interest rates—sometimes as high as 30 percent.

If the returns were real and guaranteed, we would have been prepared to deposit half of the state budget to receive a 30-percent interest rate. But things do not work out like this. For a year we wanted to pass a law rationalizing the situation, rectifying things, and guaranteeing depositors' rights. However, had we passed the law sooner, before things came to a head and people learned the truth about the 20-25-percent interest rates, depositors would have been upset. The companies would have then told them the government has denied you the opportunity of reaping such profits on your deposits. Hence the delay and the wait before issuing the law.

When people realized what was happening with the merger of the two giants and their split, we promptly passed the law, which was already half complete, to salvage the situation. Had we failed to do so just then, depositors would have leveled accusations against the government and asked why it let their deposits be lost. One of the capital investment companies sent some depositors to tell me as much. I sent someone to ask whether they had heard what the Central Bank had said, which had been published in the newspapers. But the 22 or 25 percent paralyzed their power of thinking.

I once asked a despositor in an investment company why he didn't put his money in an accredited bank. I suggested to him that he risked forfeiting his deposits in the investment company. His answer was: I receive 22-percent interest and I have recouped my money. To which I said: So you are not worried. Look at the receipts against which depositors' money was taken. Are they enough as warranty? Confidently, he responded: Yes. Contractors are bound by contracts. They will be arbiters. I was surprised that these contracts prove useless when needed. A company proprietor will then say he is bankrupt and owes you nothing.

[Nafi'] And now, what shall we do to pay back the rights of the depositors?

President Mubarak: We are now applying the law. They have a deadline of 8 November. There are companies preparing their funds. Other companies' funds exist. These copmanies will continue. We will apply the law to all the companies that do not abide by it. The issue is not one of fun. We are not in a country that only issues laws and does not enforce them. They asked for a time limit and we gave them time. After this, we will not exempt anyone from measures.

We will not allow anyone, regardless of who he is, to seize others' funds to put them in his own account, in his family's account, or in the account of persons he hires inside or outside the country. The people's funds must be paid back to them. Let everyone know that the funds that the depositors gave to the capital investment companies were trusts with them. We will not allow any betrayal of these trusts or any premeditated violation of them.

[Nafi'] What about the funds that are outside the country?

President Mubarak: I hope that the companies that have transferred the depositors' funds abroad will be on the level of responsibility to return these funds to Egypt to guarantee the rights of the depositors. These funds must be returned to their owners, the depositors.

[Nafi'] But there will be no alternative, as some people believe, when they say that the state will compensate the depositors for their funds that are outside the country?

President Mubarak: The state, no, but bringing back the funds from outside the country. Otherwise, why have we issued the law regarding the capital investment companies? Was it not for pursuing the depositors' funds? If you have access to the figures, you will find them astronomical. Legal measures will be taken when the time limit expires. Law enforcement will then begin to see what funds they have. We will facilitate the matter as much as we can. The state has no interest in this. We do not want to put our hands on the companies' funds.

I hope that these companies will be able to reorganize their affairs, begin their work to serve Egypt's economy, carry out carefully studied projects, and have boards of directors and general assemblies. We do not want to see the boards of directors and general assemblies consist of one and only one person, who exploits the deposits. Is this reasonable? Through the new law, we can rectify conditions and insure the depositors. [passage omitted]

Mubarak, Cabinet Discuss Economic Issues

NC2410160088 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak chaired a cabinet meeting this morning. Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif disclosed that President Mubarak dealt with a number of issues, the most important being the economic situation. The president also reviewed the performance being achieved in the industrial, agricultural, production, and other sectors.

Al-Sharif said that President Mubarak dealt with specific subjects and issued several decisions and instructions. The president reviewed a report on the rate at which the 1st year of the second 5-year plan is being implemented in the production and service spheres. He stressed the importance of providing the goods necessary for the requirements of production, as well as unfinished goods and foreign-made products necessary for the plan's projects. The president also emphasized the importance of making available the foreign currency necessary to meet the requirements of production and to provide the citizens with the goods essential for their livelihood.

The information minister also revealed that President Mubarak issued a number of decisions, the first of which calls for the formation of a ministerial working group to follow up the issue of the hard currency needed to ensure that the plan is fully implemented. In this respect, priority should be given to providing the unfinished goods needed for production and to allocating the necessary funds for essential goods, the amount of which is increasing with the growth in the population.

The president's second decision calls for making optimum use of Egyptian equipment manufactured and produced by the Ministries of Agriculture and War Production, with a view to reaching a stage at which the equipment necessary for building factories will be manufactured locally. Priority in this respect should be given to locally manufactured equipment and machines in the fields of mechanized agriculture, alternative energy, and small industries, because such a strategy will save hard currency, open possibilities for expansion in local industries, and increase employment.

The third decision stipulates that Egyptian workers employed by companies subject to the investment laws shall be payed in Egyptian currency, not foreign currency.

The fourth decision calls for a further reduction in travel allowances, as well as for controlling the number of delegations. In all cases, the minister concerned should authorize the travel of delegations and individuals. Ministries with representations abroad, such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, or the ministries with offices abroad, should decrease their expenditures of hard currency by reducing the staff of the embassies and technical offices abroad provided that performance is not harmed and that this step is implemented at the lowest cost. A plan detailing an actual reduction in the number of employees should be submitted within 2 weeks.

The fifth decision made by the president designates the minister concerned as the sole person authorized to appoint employees to work in technical offices abroad. The ministries also should revise their rules regulating employment abroad with the aim of achieving discipline in the work and training of the employees, as well as raising their technical expertise. Moreover, the period of work abroad should be adhered to and not extended.

The president noted that, despite the achievements recorded in the attempt to control the rate of foreign currency expenditures in the year 1987-1988, responsibility dictates even more control to meet the requirements of production and to provide essential goods.

The information minister further disclosed that President Mubarak demanded that goods imported by the government and the public sector should be transported on Egyptian planes and ships that accept payment in the Egyptian pound. The president also emphasized that individuals and missions should travel on Egyptian airlines to save foreign currency and to increase the earning of national companies. In addition, maritime transport ships should be built at the Alexandria and Port Said dockyards, not abroad.

President Mubarak also discussed the issues of developing and improving performance in the executive departments. He affirmed the importance of control and follow-up, and called on all high-level and middle-level officials to shoulder their responsibility in easing the burdens on the citizens, removing the suffering of state employees, uprooting attempts to obstruct good performance, and dealing firmly with any deviation.

Regarding the population issue, President Mubarak affirmed the importance of achieving a balance between the increases in development rates and population. He indicated that the population issue and the increase in population, which is eating away at the rates of development, must be confronted by a campaign of enlightenment. There must be coordination between the plans put forward by the sectors of health, education, information, and social affairs. He also called for a study to examine the negative effects of an increase in population.

President Mubarak also affirmed the role of governors and local leaders in exploiting the efforts made by the central government.

In the field of irrigation, President Mubarak reviewed a report on irrigation projects. The minister of irrigation referred to the ministry's ability to provide the water needed for all agricultural cycles, as well as for any expansion in land reclamation, while simultaneously keeping the Nile River at a level that would enable the High Dam power stations to operate at full capacity and at the same time make it suitable for riparian navigation.

President Mubarak called on the Irrigation Ministry to continue to carry out tiled drainage, as well as water storage and underground water projects. He also called on the ministry to continue its enlightenment campaign on the rational use of water, whether for agriculture or for general use.

In the field of trained manpower, the president noted that it is important for construction and agricultural companies working abroad, whether in the fraternal Arab or African states, to maintain the highest level of performance and to use the most up-to-date methods.

AL-AKHBAR Hails Tripartite Summit Talks

JN2510070688 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 23 Oct 88 p 5

[Editorial: "The Amman Summit and Preparations for a Decisive Phase"]

[Text] The Amman [as published] summit, which was held yesterday among President Husni Mubarak, Jordan's King Husayn, and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, was an important Arab move in a decisive phase that demands intensive efforts and complete coordination among major partners on issues pertaining to the Middle East dispute, especially the Palestinian problem.

Despite its sudden occurrence, the tripartite summit, which was held in the Jordanian capital [as published], had been expected amid circumstances requiring a direct and candid exchange of views to strengthen the future steps, which the world is expecting to hear following the PNC session within the next few weeks, in terms of establishing the independent Palestinian state and a government-in-exile. These steps require full coordination between Amman and the PLO. The two sides should agree on a proper formula between them, whether in the form of a confederation or any other formula acceptable to the two sides.

Cairo has always called for consultations and coordination between Jordan and the PLO and exerted its efforts toward this end in order to close all the loopholes that the enemies of the Palestinian cause could exploit and to confront all the attempts that Israel is expectd to mount to abort the birth of the Palestinian state, especially after Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's recent utterances.

Every sincere Arab hopes that the Amman meeting will result in complete understanding on future steps and in further cohesion and closeness between Jordan and the Palestinians to promote all Arab causes.

Objectives of Aqaba, Baghdad Summits Viewed

NC2510095288 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Bahiy al-Din Shu'ayb commentary: "There Is No Alternative to Peace for the Establishment of Security in the Area"]

[Text] The profound salutation with which the entire world has received the holding of the Aqaba and Baghdad summit meetings shows that the international community is eager for the establishment of peace in one of the most sensitive areas of the world. This salutation was not just an emotional feeling caused by enthusiasm, but stems from several important and objective reasons.

The first reason is that Egypt, despite its special concerns regarding its economic crisis and the political leadership's devotion of its full time and effort to promoting the process of development, sprang up at the right moment to exercise a leading role in the area as concerns a sensitive issue like the Palestinian issue, as well as in extremely delicate circumstances such as the ones through which this issue is passing.

The Egyptian efforts and their success in convening the Aqaba and Baghdad summits proved that the Egyptian voice receives immediate response from brothers who have full confidence in the soundness of Egypt's political calculations, sincerity of intentions, and concern for the Arab rights. This Egyptian role, which has been profoundly manifested in the wake of the Aqaba and Baghdad summits, shows that the Egyptian role is urgently needed, despite the heavy mist and the boisterous one-upmanship surrounding the Arab struggle issues.

The second reason is that the peace issue has become a strategic Arab issue for Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, and Baghdad; that maintaining the peace momentum has become a popular Arab demand far removed from short-sighted political maneuvers; and that when the Arab states talk about peace, they mean what they say. Since these four states have announced their determination to push the peace process forward, this means that they are serious in their quest and do not need to present a good conduct medal to prove their good intentions to other parties.

In fact, it has become necessary for these other parties to state their frank opinion about the peace process, without direct or indirect conditions regarding an announcement of good intentions and recognition of this or that UN resolution.

The third reason is that the Aqaba and Baghdad summits showed that an Arab interlocutor who cares for peace and for promoting the peace process exists in the arena. He extends a hand and announces his sincere desire and readiness to negotiate according to the terms of international law and to ensure human rights without thinking of harming any party. There is no doubt that the clarity of the Arab position on the peace issue, particularly following the Aqaba summit among Mubarak, Husayn, and 'Arafat, proved to the entire world that there really is an Arab front, ready and capable of bearing the responsibilities of this peace.

The fourth reason is that the clarity of the Arab position regarding the establishment of a just, permanent, and comprehensive peace makes it incumbent on the Israeli citizen to recognize the course of events and to say his word clearly and frankly, because this word will determine the course of events, either positively or negatively.

There is an Arab front which calls for and insists on the achievement of peace. We do not exaggerate if we say that voting in favor of the peace camp or the anti-peace camp in the Israeli elections next month will determine for a long time the course and direction of events.

These and other reasons explain the secret of the world's salutation over the tripartite summit meetings in Aqaba and Baghdad. These meetings have made clear to all champions of peace in the world that a unified Arab front exists which believes in and cares for peace and is capable of establishing it. Any maneuver regarding this clear approach by any direct or indirect party is tantamount to a treacherous blow to peace.

Further Commentary

NC2310171688 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 23 Oct 88

[Ahmad al-Qasir commentary: "Spotlight on the Egyptian-Jordanian-Palestinian Summit Meeting"]

[Text] Observers of the 40-year old Arab-Israeli conflict are aware of a clear and firm fact namely that the Palestinian issue—the core of this conflict—is currently passing through an important, historic, and crucial phase which will decide the future of official and popular Palestinian activity for years to come. In light of this concept, we can understand the importance of the meeting in Aqaba yesterday of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, His Majesty King Husayn, and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat. The chief aim of this meeting was to revive the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue and to coordinate stands prior to convening an international peace conference.

The tripartite summit meeting has proved to the whole world that the Arabs are willing to follow the path of peace and to foil any attempt to undermine Jordanian-Palestinian cohesion. It has also proved that the Arabs accept only one option, which is the option of peace. Meanwhile, the meeting has demonstrated that Jordan is still a principal party to the peace process. In addition, the meeting, which was held in a frank atmosphere and without sensitivites among the three leaders, has dotted the i's and crossed the t's by confirming the historic and fateful relationship between Jordan and the Palestinians. It is sufficient to say in this regard that the subject of establishing a confederation between Jordan and Palestine was discussed during the meeting.

In addition to all the aforementioned, the Mubarak-Husayn-'Arafat meeting was especially important for the following reasons:

1. The tripartite summit meeting was held 3 months after King Husayn's decision to sever Jordan's legal and administrative ties with the West Bank. This has put the onus on the PLO to shoulder its responsibility. It was necessary for the two parties to coordinate their stands at the highest level, especially in view of the continuation of the Palestinian uprising, which has proved to the world that the Palestinian people want liberation and reject Israeli occupation. This uprising has shaken Israel from within and has proved Israel's inability to confront the stone-throwing rebels, despite all its oppression and intimidation.

2. The Egyptian-Jordanian-Palestinian summit was held a few days before the PNC is scheduled to hold its most important meeting to decide on the next phase of Palestinian activity. The PNC meeting has been preceded by careful studies and continuous and intensive consultations among the Palestinian factions designed to unify their ranks. There have also been contacts between the PLO and all other countries, with the aim of winning suport for the upcoming Palestinian step, a step which will display a moderate and objective Palestinian stand.

3. The Aqaba meeting was held a few days before the Israeli election. Consequently, it will have a bearing on the election process and will encourage moderate Israeli forces which accept the voice of justice and peace as the only way to achieve peaceful coexistence among all the states of the region. Morevoer, certain international forces, known for their absolute support for Israel, have begun to understand the dimensions of the Palestinian uprising and its cohesion with its legitimate leaders represented by the PLO. These forces have also begun to reconsider their view and to adopt a more moderate and objective stand toward the PLO and toward the cause of the Palestinian people and their legitimate rights.

4. The Aqaba meeting has proved Egypt's pioneering role in the service of pan-Arab causes, particularly the Palestinian cause, and its diligent efforts to marshal Arab ranks. Egyptian-Palestinian cohesion has also proved Egypt's support for the PLO. Therefore, it was not surprising that President Mubarak should accompany Yasir 'Arafat from Cairo to Jordan and thence to Baghdad for talks with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. The Baghdad talks will undoubtedly lend support to the results reached by the Aqaba tripartite meeting. They will stress the unity and cohesion of the Arab stand and its real desire to support Palestinian rights and achieve a just peace.

Commentary Outlines 'Road of Opportunity'

NC2510074888 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 22 Oct 88

[Ahmad Sha'ban commentary: "Supporting Palestinian Contacts on International and Arab Levels in Favor of the Declaration of the Palestinian State"]

[Text] The various political activities currently going on that are pertinent to the Palestinian issue imply one thing: The issue is heading toward a decisive juncture in its history and the possibilities for a solution are available more than at any other time before. These activities are represented in numerous ways, foremost among which are:

1. The active Palestinian moves and the PLO contacts with numerous international and Arab quarters. These will enable the PLO to play an effective role in the issue.

This is in addition to the current preparations to holding the expected PNC session, which will be a decisive session in the history of the Palestinian issue and any future Palestinian action. This session will also act as a basis for peace in the area in general;

2. The Egyptian stand supporting the Palestinian rights. This tenacious stand was clearly defined in the address to the UN General Assembly by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. He reiterated Egypt's commitment to Resolution No 181 of 1947, which recognizes the Palestinian people's right to their independent state, and the PLO has expressed its extreme appreciation for this address;

3. The ceaseless Jordanian-Palestinian contacts. King Husayn has announced that high-level contacts will take place within the next few days between Jordan and the PLO. As is known, a PLO delegation led by Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] held talks with Jordanian officials lately. This demonstrates their eagerness to coordinate and agree;

4. The continuing Palestinian uprising, despite Israel's escalation of its measures to confront it. Israel's actions raise every day the number of martyrs, including the elderly, women, and children;

5. The new U.S. stand which was illustrated in President Reagan's statements before the Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers with regard to the recognition of the Palestinian people's political rights. This U.S. stand was also made clear in the statements by Shultz and Murphy, which show support for the Palestinian right and call for dialogue with the PLO; and

6. The Israeli officials' statements varying between Shamir's threats to annihilate the Palestinians and wipe out the uprising with all the illegitimate methods, and Peres' remarks to cooperate with the Palestinians in a new logic. In an interview with the ABC network, Peres said that he will accept the Palestinians choosing their negotiators to the international peace conference, even if they are PLO members. This is a completely new stand for the Israeli officials, who had always refused to deal with the PLO.

These aforementioned political activities pave the appropriate road of opportunity to the attainment of a solution. This naturally requires Palestinian efforts, rationalism, and determination to regain their rights. These activities make it incumbent upon the Palestinians to continue their Arab and international contacts, particularly their coordination with Jordan, in the hope of reaching the desired solution and of gaining the widespread international support to proclaim the independent Palestinian state in the near future.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Vows To 'Erase' Israeli 'Entity'

LD2410140588 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution today made a statement to JANA in which he said:

In my name, and in the name of the masses of the Arab nation from the ocean to the Gulf, we oppose with all our strength the treacherous movements which wave the flag of recognizing the Zionist enemy. We firmly reject the presence of a racist religious state in the middle of the Arab homeland. We will fight, and this nation will fight one generation after another, to erase this entity which constitutes a danger on the future of this nation, as the Kingdom of Urfa and the Kingdom of Jerusalem of the Crusaders were erased in the past.

Those who committed treachery will be punished and the Zionists and their imperialist masters should not be overjoyed with these movements and should not rely on them, as they are similar to plowing the sea or writing on sand.

Envoy on Resumption of Relations With Zaire

AB2310222388 Paris AFP in French 2151 GMT 23 Oct 88

[Text] Kinshasa, 23 Oct (AFP)—The Libyan emissary in Kinshasa, Mr Hamid al-Khudayri, who is Libya's ambassador in Paris, and who announced at Gbadolite (northwest Zaire) today the resumption of diplomatic relations between his country and Zaire, has said that he is "very happy" with the outcome of an audience with Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko. The resumption of relations "serves the interests of our two peoples," Mr al-Khudayri declared.

"We are very happy that our relations have been restored with this African country—you see how our relations with our Chadian brothers are developing—and that henceforth the problems that remain to be solved will be discussed among brothers," the Libyan diplomat stated in answer to a question from the Zairian television. "My presence here is a presence of fraternity, peace, and harmony," he stated. "I beieve that African wisdom teaches us to work together for the well-being of all (...). We do not want our enemies, allies of those who do not wish for the well-being of our continent, to have the opportunity to poke more fun at us," he added.

On his part, the Zairian foreign minister, Mr Nguz a Karl-i-Bond, who was present at the audience, said the message from the leader of the Libyan revolution, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, of which the Libyan envoy was the bearer, was aimed at "asking Marshal Mobutu and the Zairian people to forget the regrettable past and to think of constructing the future with confidence."

Sudan

Town of Nasir Under 'Heavy Rebel Attack'

EA2410112588 Khartoum SUNA in English 0930 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] Khartoum, Oct. 24—The People's Armed Forces General Command yesterday issued a statement saying the Upper Nile town of Nasir has been under heavy rebel attack since 12th September which has been using heavy arms. The statement said the rebels have profited from their positions and the town's location near the Ethiopian borders.

It said the Armed Forces supplies to the town have been hampered by the rainy season. It said some five rebels garrisons have been used in attacking the town, pointing out that due to the continuous heavy rebel attack, the Army troops have moved to the headquarters of Nasir town's garrison.

The statement said the Army troops are still defending the town despite more than a month attacks against civilians and Army. It pointed that attacking rebels are being inflicted heavy losses. [sentence as received]

The Armed Forces General Command said another statement will be issued later on the situation and its development. It said steps are being taken for containing the situation.

SPLA Denies Blocking Relief Efforts

EA2410195888 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Unattributed commentary entitled: "Humanitarian Organizations: Relief or Politics?"]

[Text] For the first few months [as heard], the international media have been awash with claims that SPLM-SPLA is blocking relief supplies destined for needy people in southern Sudan. SPLM-SPLA regards the recent accusations to that effect by the ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross] and other quarters, including the U.S. State Department, as a great injustice to the movement.

In the sphere of relief, it remains a longstanding SPLM-SPLA policy that food, medicines, and other essential items should be brought within reach of all deserving citizens regardless of location. Accordingly, the movement maintains as a matter of principle that the needy civilian population in the south, both in the government-held towns and in the SPLA-controlled areas should be entitled to receive help in appropriate proportions.

We have consistently argued that relief supplies earmarked for areas under SPLA control should be channelled through the Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Association [SRRA], the humanitarian wing of the movement. Meanwhile, items intended for government-held towns should be disposed of through the government-affiliated agencies concerned.

In light of this stand, all allegations that responsibility for obstruction of relief operations lies with the SPLM-SPLA is totally without foundation, and the facts clearly bear this out.

Despite the prompt response in March this year by SPLM-SPLA to an ICRC plan to launch a relief operation in southern Sudan, the ICRC, for its part, conducted an unnecessary protracted survey to assess the needs of the population in three jointly designated SPLA-held areas at a time when people were perishing in their hundreds from hunger and disease. To add insult to injury, the ICRC after all the foot-dragging, concluded that the areas it had surveyed required veterinary medicines and not food, this was at the time when independent sources reported human beings dying in their thousands.

SPLM-SPLA is by no means insensitive to the plight of Sudanese citizens in the southern part of the country, or indeed, to their suffering anywhere in the country. On the contrary, the movement is very much concerned about every aspect of their life. It is for this welfare that the SPLA took up arms in the first place.

The SRRA, with its headquarters based in Kenya, was founded precisely for the purpose of assisting and coordinating the overall international efforts to bring relief to the needy victims of war and natural disasters in Sudan. The SRRA is well-placed to solicit for aid and undertake coordination of relief assistance for the benefit of the population in all those areas under SPLA control. It goes without saying that it enjoys a distinct legal responsibility and is fully endowed in its own right with the powers to enable it achieve the objectives for which it was founded.

Consequently it is regrettable that the ICRC and others feel strongly inclined towards the absolutely unwarranted policy of ignoring the SRRA and seeking instead to deal directly with the SPLM -SPLA. Apart from affording the SRRA and other interested relief organizations, the necessary security guarantees for their work, SPLM-SPLA as such has no business getting mixed up with relief. Hence, all bonafide relief and humanitarian agencies should understand that to sidestep the SRRA will certainly yield no results.

The SPLM-SPLA has imposed no new conditions to hold up the start of the intended ICRC relief operations because the inherent right of the SRRA to partake of relief operations in areas to which it has unhindered access is hardly a condition. It is common knowledge that the right of the Sudan Government Relief Commission to be involved in the distribution of donated relief supplies in government-held towns has never been questioned.

SPLM-SPLA is not a government in the conventional sense. Nevertheless, if what is uppermost in the minds of donors and relief agencies is humanitarian assistance regardless of politics, then the SRRA as the humanitarian arm of a movement that virtually controls the entire one set of Sudan, should not be lightly dismissed [sentence as heard].

On the other hand, the SRRA, in a sense, serves as a counter-weight to the Khartoum government, which has proved that it cannot be counted upon to observe strict impartialtiy in matters pertaining to relief. During the recent flooding in Khartoum, both international and domestic public opinion was outraged to discover that not only were relief items seized by the Army, but also that racial and religious bias had become valid considerations in the distribution of relief supplies to affected citizens.

Southerners and other Sudanese of non-Arab origin, whose very presence in the first place at the outskirts of Khartoum is treated by the regime as a serious security menace, received very little of the relief items. Most of these went to their lighter-skinned Arab compatriots, with the black market as usual gobbling up a sizeable portion of the food and supplies.

Apparently set up with what it probably regards as SPLM-SPLA intransigence, the ICRC recently announced that it would request President Museveni of Uganda to plead on its behalf with the SPLM-SPLA leader, Dr John Garang, so that its relief operations be allowed to go ahead. Almost concurrently, the foreign minister of Sudan, meanwhile, at the UN headquarters in new York, charged that SPLM-SPLA was obstructing implementation of the long awaited ICRC relief operation, and that his government would ask the government of states in the region to persuade the leadership of the movement to permit the start of the ICRC relief operation.

The two declarations could hardly have been coincidental. All indications are that a concerted effort on the part of both the Khartoum regime and the ICRC to have the relief operation materialize on Khartoum's own terms is underway. Such a state of affairs is totally unacceptable.

In a similar development, it has transferred [as heard] that the World Food Program [WFP] has decided to lend Khartoum a helping hand out of its present military crisis in eastern Equatoria. The secret deal reached by the al- Mahdi Government and WFP officials, by virtue of which the latter would have made arrangements to airdrop vitally needed supplies to the besieged Army garrison of Torit, is quite detestable to say the least. Humanitarian organizations should avoid caving in to political pressures at all costs because they have a strong moral duty to pursue only policies that are in keeping with their noble goals.

AL-BAYAN on Army Operations Against Rebels

JN2510074588 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 23 Oct 88 pp 1, 17

[By Yusuf al-Shanbali]

[Text] Informed sources in Khartoum yesterday confirmed the information reported by AL-BAYAN on the immense military operations by the Sudanese Army against Garang's rebel forces in the South, which are trying to open another battle front in areas to the south of the Blue Nile in the Central Region.

A military source has stated that the Army discovered military concentrations belonging to Garang's troops near the cities of Kurmuk and Qaysan, and that Ethiopian and Cuban troops were present among them. He said that urgent military reinforcements were hurriedly sent to the region.

The military source said that the aim of the concentrations, if not to occupy the two cities as happened about a year ago, is to disperse the Army's efforts, over the past 2 days, to settle the security situation in the South, especially in the cities of Nasir and Torit. The military source described the battles raging there are as "fierce."

On the other hand, AL-BAYAN's investigations confirm that the Sudanese Army's military operations are accompanied by the implementation of a humanitarian plan to transport large quantities of food and foodstuffs to Southern Sudan, where the civil war has resulted in a famine that kills hundreds of southern citizens daily, and after Garang has rejected all international mediations to allow food to reach the affected people in an effort to force them to join his camps.

The informed sources have said that due to these developments, an Iraqi air lift, and another one from Libya, have been extended to Sudan to supply it with large quantities of military hardware and ammunition and to provide the battle's requirements. The Army Command and the government decided to fight this battle to terminate, once and for all, the rebellion and preserve unity between the Sudanese North and South.

Al-Mirghani on Garang, Ties With Ethiopia

JN2210202088 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 21-22 Oct 88 p 16

[Interview with Ahmad 'Ali al-Mirghani, chairman of the Sudanese State Council, by Shakir al-Jawhari in Khartoum; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Al-Jawhari] Where have contacts with John Garang reached?

[Al-Mirghani] There are two kinds of contacts, official and those held by some brother party leaders. I believe that they are proceeding well, and I hope that the issue will be settled soon.

[Al-Jawhari] I have learned that a delegation from the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] is authorized to sign an agreement with Garang?

[Al-Mirghani] Yes, and if the government agrees on this agreement, then it will become valid.

[Al-Jawhari] In your opinion, what are the features of a lasting solution, and does Garang actually want to achieve reconciliation and Sudan's unity, or is he only maneuvering?

[Al-Mirghani] Of course, I do not know the invisible. However, the basis for this action are the people. The problem of southern Sudan was created by the colonialists. However, the movement of John Garang emerged during Numayri's era in 1983. It was one of the movements opposing the defunct regime. After the toppling of the Numayri regime, and in light of the existence of the freedom of expression and publication, which you yourself noticed, we propose that Colonel John Garang should come to his brothers and sit with them to settle their problems together.

We do not bear grudges against anyone, freedoms are guaranteed, and you have lived this with us. Col John Garang can now come to participate with all sides, from southern and northern Sudan, in the constitutional conference with an open heart and mind. All sides should agree on a standard constitutional formula before it is referred to the Constituent Assembly for approval, and then we will move to build a modern Sudan based on sound and healthy bases.

[Al-Jawhari] Can we say that the constitutional conference has been deferred until the completion of reconciliation with southern Sudan?

[Al-Mirghani] I believe that southern Sudan is something else.

[Al-Jawhari] I mean John Garang, and not southern Sudan. I know that there are southern parties in the Constitutional Assembly now?

[Al-Mirghani] We will be happy if the problem with John Garang is settled and he comes and takes part in the constitutional conference, because the benefit will be greater. However, postponing the constitutional conference is out of question because we are working for its convocation. We hope that John Garang and all the brothers in southern and northern Sudan will participate in the constitutional conference to reach an agreement that will serve the interests of all Sudan.

[Al-Jawhari] What is Garang's latest formula for achieving reconciliation and attending the constitutional conference. What does he want?

[Al-Mirghani] I have not thus far received official conditions. However, talks are being held with party members, including the DUP. They met with Garang's movement, the two sides held good talks, and the results were good. Another round of talks will be held next week. We are optimistic for a quick end to the problem.

[Al-Jawhari] If this quick end, which we also wish, is not achieved, then does this mean that the constitutional conference will be postponed indefinitely?

[Al-Mirghani] No, God willing, an agreement and quick results will be reached.

[Al-Jawhari] Is Ethiopia playing a positive role in settling differences with Garang, or is it adopting a negative stand?

[Al-Mirghani] Relations with Ethiopia are currently good. The Ethiopian brothers have realized that it is necessary to establish good, normal relations of neighbourliness with Sudan without sensitivities. There is now an Ethiopian ambassador in Khartoum, and we have an ambassador in Addis Ababa. We hope that our relations will continue to be good.

Regarding Col John Garang, he is basically Sudanese, and all sides should meet to reach a unified formula of action. In Sudan, we have several parties, and anyone can form a party, issue a newspaper, say what he wants, express his opinion to the public, and nominate himself for election. The people have the first and last say. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Discusses Unrest in South

PM2410121988 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 21 Oct 88 pp 35-36

[Interview with Foreign Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu Salih by Raghidah Dirgham in New York; date not given]

[Excerpts] AL-HAWADITH: Why has the war in the south not ended?

Abu Salih: That war has seriously exhausted Sudan's resources, harmed many Sudanese people and exposed them to hunger, destitution, and fragmentation, and it has cost many lives. The truth is that there is no justification whatsoever for the rebels to continue fighting because the present government in Sudan came to power in the wake of a popular uprising by all the Sudanese people. [passage omitted]

The rebellion movement represents only a minority. What does it want? If it wants some kind of autonomy or a special rule for the southern region, well, that has not been rejected. If it wants just and balanced development, then there is no problem. If it wants the creation of more opportunities and if it wants equal opportunities and power sharing, these too do not constitute points of disagreement. [passage omitted]

There is no justification for that movement. It continues because of foreign aid given in pursuit of objectives that have nothing to do with the Sudanese society or people, but regardless of the objectives, we have asked the movement to sit with us and have a dialogue. We have frequently urged all the Sudanese people and all the political forces in the government, the opposition, and elsewhere to get together and hold a constitutional conference to find solutions to all the problems.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you mean to say that all the Sudanese Government's attempts to hold a dialogue with [SPLM leader] Garang were rejected by him?

Abu Salih: He refused, of course. I personally, in the name of the Sudanese Government, made an initiative through the Ethiopian Government because Garang's movement operates and emanates from Ethiopian territory. We submitted the peace initiative in May this year to Chairman Mengistu.

AL-HAWADITH: What was the answer?

Abu Salih: We are still waiting to hear what Garang has to say, but this confirms our insistence on dialogue and on settling the issue peacefully.

AL-HAWADITH: Why did you not try direct dialogue with Garang instead of dialogue through Mengistu?

Abu Salih: There is no chance to sit down with Garang because he moves outside Sudan. He is not on Sudanese territory to hear us. He is abroad, and whether he holds a dialogue or not and where is up to him. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: You have said that Ethiopia supports the mutiny in southern Sudan and Ethiopia says that Sudan supports the Eritrean movement in Ethiopia.

Abu Salih (interrupting): That is what Ethiopia says.

AL-HAWADITH: Is that not what you are doing?

Abu Salih: First of all, as a matter of principle Sudan has always supported all liberation movements. The Eritrean issue is an old issue known to the entire world community. Its history is known. The fact is, however, that the aid received by the Eritrean Liberation Movement comes, not from Sudan, but from other quarters, and not through Sudan but through other areas. The movement fights inside Ethiopian territory but there are large numbers of Eritreans in Sudan.

They are only refugees and they are there for the world to see and hear. They are under UN supervision and we would welcome anyone wishing to investigate that.

AL-HAWADITH: It is sad that while both Sudan and Ethiopia have suffered natural catastrophes such as drought, floods, and locusts, they are unable, according to international circles, to solve the problems between them, and the result is that both peoples are paying the price; so when will the cycle of revenge end?

Abu Salih: We realize that infighting and wars are futile. As you well know, in these regions there are ferocious people who would fight to the end. Every sensible person believes a peaceful solution must be found through dialogue. That is what we have been doing. We are trying very hard to arrive at solutions with our neighbor Ethiopia. Our ambition is not only to normalize or improve relations but also to promote cooperation between us in the fields of development in the interest of our two peoples.

AL-HAWADITH: Who is mediating between you?

Abu Salih: A number of states have mediated, including Egypt, and some states are still trying. What I mean to say here is that we are trying and we are serious but so far we have not achieved our objective.

AL-HAWADITH: British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe was recently in Sudan, Ethiopia, and Kenya. What did he bring with him?

Abu Salih: I attended all the meetings held with Geoffrey Howe in Sudan. He just came to acquaint himself with the situation regarding the problems of rain, floods, and displacement, and to know more about the problem of the south. He understood from the Sudanese Government that it wishes and is determined to solve this problem. We want to solve the problem because we want stability and because we want to develop the country. We know that this problem drains our resources. Howe was convinced of what he saw and he was convinced of the Sudanese Government's approach. We believe that, during the tour, he probably heard the views of the brother neighbors on this matter and what contribution they could make.

AL-HAWADITH: Did he submit any proposals to you?

Abu Salih: No, he did not submit any proposals. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: What is on offer now. Is it reunification. If I understood you correctly, you have said that you do not reject autonomy for the south. Is what is on offer today the unification of the south and the granting of autonomy to it?

Abu Salih: On the question of the south, all Sudan was in the past divided into nine directorates, three of which were in the south and were called the three southern districts. As far as we in Sudan are concerned, what the southerners want is what will take place. We would not object whether they wanted one or three districts. If they wanted some kind of regional autonomy--and that would depend on the wish of the people—as the case was at one stage in the past, then we have no objection.

When it comes to government relationship, the form of government, and distribution of power, the political forces in Sudan are keeping an open mind for any ideas that would achieve justice and fulfill the ambitions of both parts. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Is it true that the Americans have linked their willingness to help Sudan in connection with the catastrophes and the question of the south to a request for military and security agreements connected with the Sudanese-Ethiopian-Libyan borders?

Abu Salih: There is nothing of the kind because the Sudanese Government would in no way forfeit Sudan's sovereignty, though it seeks to befriend everyone. The U.S. Administration is maintaining its relations and aid unconditionally.

AL-HAWADITH: The question is, have the Americans tried that?

Abu Salih: No, that has not happened. [passage omitted]

Garang Message on Revolution Anniversary

EA2110204588 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Arabic 1320 GMT 21 Oct 88

[Message from John Garang, SPLA commander in chief and chairman of the SPLM Political-Military High Command, on the anniversary of the 21 October revolution; Garang speaks in English with superimposed Arabic translation—recorded]

[Text] Nationalists, patriots, fellow countrymen, revolutionary and heartfelt greetings to you all wherever you are. I seize this opportunity to congratulate you on the anniversary of the glorious October Revolution in the Sudan. The October Revolution is a very important landmark in the history of the Sudanese people. It was a revolution by the Sudanese people for the welfare of the Sudanese masses. October is a landmark because the people for the first time defeated tanks and artillery with their bare fists.

Again, you vigilantly and courageously rose against one of the most vicious tyrannies and vampires of the century. And you succeeded in throwing him out of the country for good.

Dear countrymen, the revolution is eternal; it has no end. It continuously and forever destroys the old and builds the new. The true revolution can never retain the rotten parts. It continuously destroys the rotten parts. It innovates, it creates something new, something better for the people.

Since the SPLM-SPLA is part and parcel of the Sudanese revolution, and since it played a leading role in the overthrow of the cancerous May regime, I would like to assure all of you that the SPLM-SPLA is committed to the task of bringing a lasting peace to the Sudan.

The SPLM-SPLA is committed to ensuring that the 6 April revolution does not, like October, end in another period of reaction and dictatorship.

In my speech to the Sudanese people on the occasion of the fall of Numayri I affirmed that the SPLM-SPLA wholeheartedly supports the popular uprising. It is clear, as shown by the current events in the Sudan, that the weapon of popular uprising and revolutionary armed struggle, as waged by the SPLA in the Sudan, are complementary and one cannot succeed without the other.

Kuwait

AL-SIYASAH on 'Comforting Signs' From Tehran

JN2310130888 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 20-21 Oct 88 p 1

[Editorial: "New Obligations Toward Iran"]

[Text] Some important and comforting signs have come from Iran these days, whether through Hashemi-Rafsanjani's statement on oil or Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati's statement on King Fahd's call for reconciliation in the opening of the Islamic countries information ministers' conference recently held in Jeddah.

These indicators are comforting. Iran wants to use King Fahd's call to resume relations with Saudi Arabia. It would also like to cooperate with the Gulf countries so that oil prices will not collapse. These sensible indicators create a comforting atmosphere because the Iranian regime has started to move toward unity of opinion and strength of decision. This is what Tehran needed. In fact, this is what all the countries in the region need. Iran is a neighboring country, and no one can change existing geographic situations. The resources of this region are unlimited if exploited positively for the sake of the people and while adhering to the codes of international cooperation.

These indicators, brought by international media organs from Iran and its leadership, which seems strong at present, have created the atmosphere the region was in need of. Of course, we are waiting for the Iranian-Iraqi negotiations to end soon. We want them to be successful and to conclude as we would like—that is, with permanent peace and the return of the bridges of cooperation between the countries of the region.

Just as we see Iran as a neighboring country with which we could cooperate, we feel that in return, the Iranian people and government, which have finally managed to muster up strength and unity of decision, also want the old bridges to be mended, especially those with the Iraqi people—the country whose borders were open for all the Iranian people to travel to with ease.

Rafsanjani's statements on the oil issue and Velayati's statements on King Fahd's initiative indicate a sign of detente in Iranian-Gulf relations. All we can do is push these signs forward so that they would reflect on the Iranian-Iraqi negotiations. Everyone wants security for Iran and wants Iran to have a political leadership which knows that international relations have codes and traditions that must be respected. This is necessary so that we will not find ourselves isolated in this world with which, whether we like it or not, we have to cooperate so that our and our people's interests will not become the prey of this world's robbery and make them submit to its interests and exploitational circumstances.

Paper on USSR's Aim To 'Colonize' Region

JN2310182788 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 22 Oct 88 pp 1, 23

[Editorial: "The Big Powers, the Gulf, and the Crossword Puzzle!"]

[Text] The changes in the USSR leadership must have their ramifications on USSR foreign policy and on USSR relations with other states, including those of the Middle East.

It is now clear that USSR relations with the Arab states will witness changes similar to the Kremlin's relations with the United States and the West European states due to considerations that are part of the new strategy worked out by USSR leader Gorbachev—a strategy whose features were clarified by the military withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Observers believe that the detente that coincided with Gorbachev's assumption of power must affect the conception of relations of friendship and cooperation with states that follow USSR policy, even from the viewpoint of self-interests. The USSR does not want to isolate itself at a time when the United States has managed to establish a presence in the most important and vital strategic regions.

The USSR tried to establish such a presence in the Arabian Gulf region, taking advantage of its relations with Iran and its traditional enmity with the United States. Hence, the USSR proposed the formation of a joint naval force to secure international shipping routes in the Gulf.

It is clear that the USSR proposal seeks a foothold in the Gulf and some political, military, and trade gains as a result of the halt to the Iraq-Iran war. In other words, the USSR presented itself as an acceptable partner following its rapprochement with Washington so that, through this character, it can return to the region and share interests and influence with the United States. But the Arab Gulf states, thanks to their wisdom and foresight, have realized the facts of the new USSR policy and become acquainted with the new USSR thinking. This thinking stems from the supreme interests of a superpower and a strategic plan based on exploiting the new changes to colonize the region once again.

We do not need foreign military fleets because we have no problems and do not suffer from direct dangers. In fact, all the crises and conflicts that have occurred in the Gulf region have been due to the big powers' interference and their constant endeavors to perpetuate war and maintain death in order to exhaust the region's resources and obtain huge revenues from the arms trade, increase insurance premiums, and raise commodities prices.

The USSR call for the formation of a naval strike force in the Gulf will be followed by requests to obtain facilities and naval and ground bases. Hence there will be a return to sharing control and colonizing the region after we removed the old colonization and managed to entrench the pillars of an Arab Gulf policy that is characterized by neutrality and moderation and that enjoys international admiration and appreciation.

From this premise, we reject any foreign military presence in our region. We assert that most of our problems are created by the big powers, their conspiracies, and their interference.

Qatar

British Minister Leaves for Riyadh 22 Oct

JN2210093388 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0835 GMT 22 Oct 88

[Text] Doha, 22 Oct (WAKH)—William Waldegrave, British minister of state for foreign affairs, and his accompanying delegation left Doha for Riyadh this morning after a 3-day visit to Qatar as part of a tour of a number of regional states. He was seen off by Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, Qatari minister of state for foreign affairs.

During the visit, the British minister held talks with a number of senior Qatari officials on aspects of bilateral cooperation, ways to strengthen them, and issues of common interest.

Saudi Foreign Minister Visits During Gulf Tour

JN2310141288 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1245 GMT 23 Oct 88

[Text] Doha, 23 Oct (WAKH)—Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal arrived in Doha this afternoon on a short visit to Qatar as part of his current tour of a number of GCC countries. He was received by Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, minister of state for foreign affairs; and Sulayman al-Zayd, Saudi ambassador to the State of Qatar.

Following his arrival, the Saudi foreign minister said that he would convey a message to His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, from his brother, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. In his statement to QNA, the Saudi foreign minister said that the visit is part of the continued coordination and consultations among the GCC countries' leaders on issues of interest to our region as well as Arab issues.

Saudi Arabia

PDRY Minister Calls Talks 'Constructive'

LD2310190088 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Oct 88

[Excerpts] His Royal Highness Crown Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard, received at his office in the Royal Court in Al-Yamamah Palace this afternoon Brigadier General Salih Munassir al-Siyayli, PDRY deputy prime minister and interior minister. [passage omitted]

Earlier His Royal Highness Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, interior minister, held talks with Brig Gen Salih Munassir al-Siyayli at the Interior Ministry. [passage omitted]

His Royal Highness Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz described the talks between the Saudi and PDRY delegations as very beneficial. In a statement to SPA he said that today's meeting was an opportunity to discuss all issues of mutual interest. His royal highness added that the discussions were fraternal, amicable, and objective; we talked about all matters and we found that our views are compatible on all matters.

The interior minister continued: We always aspire to make relations between our countries strong and firm. He pointed out that the relations between the two countries stem from the unity of religion, neighborhood, and fraternity.

His royal highness added: We can stress, from the position of responsibility and because of our full conviction, that the relations today between Saudi Arabia and the PDRY are strong and firm, and are based on an understanding and appreciation of our joint responsibility and mutual appreciation and respect.

His Royal Highness Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz said: I am confident that the near future will translate these feelings into a tangible reality for the people in the two fraternal countries and in our Arab and Islamic nations. [passage omitted]

For his part, the PDRY deputy prime minister and interior minister expressed thanks and appreciation to the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, for the efforts he has made within the framework of developing the fraternal ties between the peoples of Saudi Arabia and the PDRY and the governments of the two fraternal countries.

In a statement to SPA after the talks, he expressed satisfaction with the results of the talks. He said: They were positive and constructive, and there was mutual understanding between the two sides on the totality of issues discussed.

The PDRY deputy prime minister and interior minister expressed hopes that these results will be exploited in fruitful work and developed relations between the two countries. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Memorandum Urges Arab Summit To 'Save' Lebanon

JN2210200688 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1810 GMT 22 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 22 Oct (WAKH)—The UAE has called for the convening of an emergency Arab summit conference to discuss the deteriorating situation in Lebanon.

This came in a memorandum sent today by the Foreign Ministry to the Arab League General Secretariat. The memorandum called on the Arab League's secretary general to make a swift move and hold the necessary contacts in this regard with Arab leaders to hold an emergency Arab summit to save Lebanon form its ordeal. The Foreign Ministry also asked the General Secretariat to inform it of the responses received by the Arab League in the shortest possible time.

In its memorandum to the Arab League General Secretariat, the Foreign Ministry affirmed the call made by His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president, to hold a meeting of Arab leaders and all sides concerned in the Lebanese arena to save Lebanon from its ordeal and to stop the imminent dangers that threaten its destiny and unity. [passage omitted]

British Minister Waldegrave Meets With Officials

Sees President Zayid

JN2410122888 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the state, received at Al-Khaznah Palace this morning Mr William Waldegrave, British minister of state for foreign affairs. They reviewed the situation in the Gulf and the Middle East, a number of international issues of mutual interest, and bilateral cooperation.

The meeting was attended by His Highness Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs; Shaykh Hamdan ibn Zayid, Foreign Ministry under secretary; and His Excellency Michael Tait, British ambassador to the UAE.

Meets With Counterpart

JN2410164888 Manama WAKH in English 1540 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Oct 24 (GNA)—The United Arab Emirates urged Britain today to exert efforts as a member of the European Community (EC) to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East.

UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid Abdallah made the call during a meeting with his British counterpart William Waldegrave, who arrived last night on the third leg of a Gulf tour.

The two ministers discussed Gulf and Arab issues, especially efforts to push forward peace talks between Iraq and Iran to achieve a just and durable peace.

They also discussed prospects for an international conference and the situation in Lebanon in light of President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan's call for summit talks to help find a solution to the 13-year-old civil war.

Waldegrave said Britain would pursue efforts to hold an international peace meeting and resolve the Palestinian problem.

The meeting was attended by head of the Foreign Ministry's Economic and World Cooperation Department Muhammad Khalifah Al Yusuf and British Ambassador Michael Tait.

Abdallah and Waldegrave are due to co-chair the meeting of the joint UAE-British committee later today.

Holds News Conference

JN2410195888 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1825 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi 24 Oct (WAKH)—The British minister of state for commonwealth and foreign affairs described UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan's initiative to solve the Lebanese crisis as a great contribution and big step toward helping the Lebanese overcome their crisis.

In a news conference he held this evening, the British minister said that His Highness Shaykh Zayid's initiative, which he announced last week, on holding an Arab summit to discuss the Lebanese issue, was one of the topics discussed during his meeting with his highness today.

Waldegrave, who had arrived in the country yesterday during his tour of the region, affirmed that Britain, with the cooperation of its associates in the European community, will do all it can to help solve the Lebanese crisis.

The minister said that he had noticed that the initiative had stepped up the exerted efforts to help Lebanon. He referred to the positive reactions issued welcoming his hgihness' call to hold an emergency Arab summit.

On Britain's decision to resume diplomatic relations with Iran, the British minister affirmed that any development in these relations will not be at the expense of Iraq. He said Britain wishes to establish balanced, unbiased relations with any country in the region.

Waldegrave said that he had affirmed to officials in the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Qatar that British naval forces will remain in the Gulf so long as there is a need for that.

The British minister welcomed the latest Arab moves in the Middle East, especially the meetings held in the port of Aqaba between Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, the Jordanian monarch His Majesty King Husayn, and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

Waldegrave said that the popular uprising in the occupied Arab territories and the sacrifices made by the Palestinians have contributed toward effecting a change in world understanding for the extent of Palestinian refusal of the continued Israeli occupation. He said that Israeli measures and methods of dealing with the uprising have gone far beyond what is required to establish peace.

The British minister called on the Israeli Government to respond positively to the new realities, the most important of which is giving the Palestinian people the right to self-determination and freedom of expression as to what they see as their legitimate representative in peace negotiations.

As for Britain's stand on declaring the independent Palestinian state based on the 1974 Security Council Resolution 181, Waldegrave said that the first step is to hold an international peace conference on the Middle East problem. He described the Israeli enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's statement—in which he warns against the establishment of a Palestinian state because it might result in a third world war—as an unreasonable remark.

The British minister said that the special relations existing between his country and the United States could affect the U.S. Administration in a limited way in its handling of the Middle East problem by pressuring Israel to persuade it to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories. Waldegrave warned Israel that its refusal to respond to peace movements could isolate it from the world.

Departs After 2-Day Visit

JN2510083488 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0810 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] Dubayy, 25 Oct (WAKH)—William Waldegrave, British minister of state for foreign affairs, left Dubayy early this morning heading for his country following a 2-day visit to the UAE. The visit came at the conclusion of a tour which included Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

During the visit, the British minister held talks with a number of senior officials in the UAE. He also headed his country's side to the meetings of the UK-UAE Joint Committee.

Saudi Foreign Minister Arrives, Makes Statement

JN2310113488 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 23 Oct 88

[Text] Head of State Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan received a message from his brother King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques and Saudi Arabian monarch, dealing with the situation in the region and current Arab developments within the framework of continuous coordination and negotiations between the two leaders for the benefit of the Arabs and Moslems.

His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi Arabian foreign minister, delivered the message when he was received by his highness the head of state this morning at Al-Khaznah Palace. The meeting was attended by His Highness Tahnun ibn Muhammad, representative of the ruler of the Eastern Province; Shaykh Surur ibn Muhammad, head of the President's Office; Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs; Shaykh Hamdan ibn Zayid, Foreign Ministry under secretary; and Salih Sulayman al-Fawzan, Saudi ambassador to the UAE.

His Highness Sa'ud al-Faysal arrived in the country this morning. Upon arrival, he gave a statement to WAM saying that he will deliver a message to head of state Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan from his brother King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi Arabian monarch and custodian of the two holy mosques. He explained that this message deals with continuous coordination between the head of state and the custodian of the two holy mosques on everything that concerns the two fraternal countries, whether concerning bilateral relations or joint cooperation within the framework of the GCC or other Arab issues.

He added that the message contains a clarification of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's stand and King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz's opinions on current events. He also wishes to be informed of his brother His Highness Shaykh Zayid's opinion on these issues.

On the call issued by the UAE to hold an Arab summit on Lebanon, His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said: The Lebanese issue is one of the issues that most concerns the Arab group. There will be negotiations with the head of state on this topic.

He explained that his visit to the UAE comes within the framework of a tour of GCC countries, indicating that coordination continues between the leaders of GCC countries.

Foreign Minister Returns From Argentina, Brazil

JN2210094788 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0840 GMT 22 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 22 Oct (WAKH)—Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, this morning returned to Abu Dhabi from Buenos Aires after a tour of Argentina and Brazil. During the tour, 'Abdallah held talks with senior officials in the two states and signed two protocols for bilateral cooperation between the UAE and both Argentina and Brazil. [passage omitted]

Yemen Arab Republic

USSR Deputy Defense Minister Departs 22 Oct

JN2210132088 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Oct 88

[Text] General Peter Lushev, USSR first deputy defense minister, left Sanaa this morning after a several-day visit to our country. In a predeparture statement to SABA', Lushev said the visit has enabled him to see for himself the YAR's successes in various fields.

He expressed satisfaction with the state of relations between our country and the USSR and noted that preparations are under way to observe the anniversary of establishing these ties.

On hand to bid farewell to the Soviet deputy defense minister were Colonel Sa'id Muhammad Ghanim, deputy chief of staff; a number of Armed Forces officers; and the USSR ambassador in Sanaa.

'Aziz Urges Arab League To 'Move' on Lebanon

JN2410155188 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] Iraq has urged the Arab League to carry out a quick and tangible move in order to guarantee a free, secure session of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies to elect a new Lebanese president.

This was in a message sent by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, to Chedli Klibi, Arab League secretary general, today. Tariq 'Aziz asserted that electing a new Lebanese president should be based on safeguarding Lebanon's independence, its territorial integrity and its Arab affiliation. It should also be based on noninterference in Lebanese affairs, lifting of the trusteeship on Lebanon, resisting any attempt to divide it, and respecting its constitutional legitimacy. The message points out that what is happening in Lebanon is part of a Zionist scheme to fragment Arab countries and turn them into sectarian statelets to destroy the independence of all Arab countries and pan-Arab security. The message says that Iraq, which offered rivers of blood to confront these schemes in defense of both its national entity and the Arab entity, is of the opinion that the Arab League should quickly and effectively discuss such a move.

Arab League's Klibi Arrives, Makes Statement

JN2410202488 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi arrived in Baghdad this evening on a visit to Iraq lasting several days. In a statement to INA, he expressed pleasure at visiting Baghdad, the city of peace, which, along with all Arabs, is rejoicing in peace and a victorious position. He said: It pleases me to extend a greeting of appreciation and pride to the maker of this victory, President Saddam Husayn, and to his heroic Army and the valiant Iraqi people who, through this victory, brought confidence back to all strugglers in the Arab homeland.

Klibi asserted that it is possible to overcome challenges when the matter concerns the defense of both the homeland and the Arab nation's supreme interests. He added: I would like to take this opportunity to assert that just as our Arab states supported Iraq during wartime, they also support Iraq today in the battle of peace so that harmony based on right and justice will prevail in the whole Gulf region and good neighborliness will govern relations among all Gulf states.

The Arab League secretary general pointed out that during his visit he will become acquainted with the latest developments in the Iraqi-Iranian negotiations—which will resume in Geneva soon—as well as what can be done by the Arab League General Secretariat in this regard on the Arab and international levels. He explained that foremost among the topics he will discuss during the visit are developments in Lebanon which is surrounded by grave dangers and which deserves that its brothers adopt a clear, strong stand alongside it in order to help it move out of the crisis resulting from the vacancy in the president's office. Such a stand will also help safeguard Lebanon—state, people, and land, he added.

Receiving Chedli Klibi at the airport were Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Foreign Ministry under secretary.

Meets With Tariq 'Aziz

JN2510124288 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1010 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Oct (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi, today. They discussed the serious situation in Lebanon and the Arab League's historic responsibility at this delicate stage to safeguard Lebanon's sovereignty and unity. They also reviewed the current Arab situation. The foreign minister briefed Klibi on recent developments in the Iraqi-Iranian negotiations to achieve a lasting, comprehensive peace, and on Iraq's stand on the issues being discussed.

Klibi stressed the Arab nation's support for Iraq's stand at the negotiations, and for its demands which are based on right and logic. He also affirmed the Arab nation's concern about achieving a lasting, comprehensive peace in the region. Attending the meeting were the Foreign Ministry under secretary and the head of the Arab department at the Foreign Ministry.

UN Delegate on Nuclear Arms, Israeli Satellite

JN2210194288 Baghdad INA in English 1820 GMT 22 Oct 88

[Text] United Nations, Oct.22, INA—As the General Assembly's political and security committee continued its debate on disarmament questions, Iraq called for the application of "concrete measures" to reduce nuclear strategic weapons and for the reinforcement of mechanisms of the United Nations aimed at multilateral disarmament negotiations. Iraqi delegate Rahim al-Kittal told the committee that Iraq maintained that any treaty banning the production and stockpiling of radiological weapons had to include provisions aimed at prohibiting attacks on nuclear facilities, in order to prevent a repetition of what happened in 1981 when the Zionist entity attacked Iraq's peaceful nuclear facilities.

Mr. al-Kittal said that the Zionist entity had acquired nuclear weapons in contradiction to the objectives of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and was in collaboration with South Africa in the nuclear field, which was responsible for the nuclear threat in the Middle East And Africa. He expressed the hope that the fourth review conference on the Non-Proliferation Treaty would take that situation into consideration.

The Iraqi delegate stressed the need to establish measures banning weapons of mass destruction, which had to cover all aspects of those weapons—development, production, stockpiling and effective means of verification. He said Iraq was deeply concerned about the launching by the Israeli entity of a satellite enabling it to spy on Arab and African countries.

Kurdish Leader Talabani on Chemical Warfare

PM2410153488 Paris LE MONDE in French 23-24 Oct 88 p 5

[Interview with Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, by "J.G." in Paris—date not given]

[Text] "It is no exaggeration to say that the use of chemical weapons has become mere routine for the Iraqis." On a stopover in Paris, Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], one of the main peshmerga organizations in Iraqi Kurdistan, said that toxic gas is now part of the Iraqi army's ordinary arsenal. "It uses it regularly," he said, "when it carries out a major operation in Kurdistan and even uses it to cover its retreat." He also said that 59 Kurdish civilians were killed between 11 and 14 October in chemical weapon attacks in the region of Shaykh Bizini, near Kirkuk, and near the villages of Hamiyah and Shami Razan, west of the city of Al-Sulaymaniyah.

The PUK leader said that since the cease-fire with Iran was signed, the Iraqis have sent several divisions into Kurdistan from the southern and central fronts to "capture" the liberated zones, especially in the region of the Karadak mountain and also in the plains of Al-Sulaymaniyah, Kirkuk, and Irbil, where their tanks can move around safely to "clear" these regions of any Kurdish armed presence. During these operations, they destroyed nearly 1,000 villages, which brings the number of places destroyed since 1977 to almost 5,000.

Mr Talabani stressed that all these operations have failed to undermine the peshmerga's ability to fight and they are still active, although they have been forced to change their tactics and forms of combat. "We have formed small units of between 40 and 50 extremely mobile peshmerga," he explained. "On the night of 13 October, several of those groups attacked and destroyed a major radar station in the Karachuk mountains."

Referring to the Iran-Iraq cease-fire, he admitted that the peshmerga were surprised by it. "The Iranians," he said, "accepted the cease-fire without consulting us or even informing us. We learned about it, as everybody did, on the radio, whereas they ought to have discussed it with us in keeping with their pledges. They even withdrew from some regions without telling us. But we must be objective: They did not end their aid and they have so far supplied us with arms and munitions."

An 8-Year Conflict

He added: "The 1975 tragedy will not be repeated," referring to the total collapse of the Kurdish resistance which followed the Algiers agreement. He also thinks it is unlikely for a joint Iraqi-Iranian front to be formed against the Kurds, as happened in 1975. "Eight years of relentless fighting," he added, "have created an ocean of blood between Iran and Iraq which it will be difficult to forget." He continued: "However, we must remain vigilant and prepare for every eventuality, the worst being that Tehran and Baghdad will overcome their disagreements and agree to unite their forces against the Kurdish people."

Mr Talabani also thinks that the political alliance formed with Tehran 2 years ago was not a mistake as some people state. "Back in 1986," he stressed, "with the start of the use of chemical weapons, operations against the Kurds took on the character of genocide. To protect our people, it was necessary to cooperate with Iran or any other power prepared to fight Iraq. If any force decides to destroy the Iraqi chemical weapon factories, we will be delighted."

Ba'th Party Official on 'Zionists,' Syria

JN2310180988 Baghdad INA in English 1544 GMT 23 Oct 88

[Text] Baghdad, Oct. 23, INA—The secretary of the regional leadership of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party in Lebanon Dr. Majid al-Rafi'i said today that the basic logic for a solution to the Lebanese crisis implies the withdrawal of the Zionists and the Syrian regime from Lebanon. "The Lebanese crisis should be settled on the basis of the U.N. Security Council Resolution No. 425" he said. "The next two weeks will witness the crystallization of a final judgment on France's initiative on Lebanon" Dr. al-Rafi'i told INA today.

Describing the caretaker government of Brigadier Michel 'Awn as the legitimate government in Lebanon, Dr al-Rafi'i said that the outgoing Salim al-Huss was forced to carry on under the pressure of the Syrian regime. Dr. al-Rafi'i sharply denounced the Zionist campaign against Iraq and its timing with another campaign by the Syrian regime, saying that those involved in these filthy campaigns were working against the interests of Lebanon and the Arab nation. He noted that the Syrian regime had become involved in an accord with the United States as part of a plot directed against the Arab nation.

IDF Captures 2 DFLP 'Terrorists'

TA2410150188 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1430 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Excerpts] Following is the IDF spokesman's announcement: Two terrorists were captured this evening on the northern slopes of Har Dov. During the night, an IDF patrol spotted a terrorist squad moving in the Har Dov area. It opened fire at the squad and captured two of its members. One of them is wounded. Our forces sustained no injuries. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 24 October adds that a third terrorist fled.]

During questioning, the two admitted that they are members of Nayif Hawatimah's DFLP and that they were sent to carry out an attack inside Israeli territory.

The terrorists were found in the possession of two Kalashnikov rifles, two battle vests, magazines, five F-5 grenades, and knives.

Earlier, seven terrorists who were planning an attack in Israel were captured, as we hear from our correspondent in the north, Menahem Horowitz:

The terrorists organized in the Shatila refugee camp in Beirut and in the Al-Miyah Wa Miyah refugee camp near Sidon. Six men and a 13-year old girl left Sidon for southern Lebanon on Saturday morning. They reached the outskirts of Zawtar near Al-Nabatiyah. Led by a local guide who is familiar with the terrain, they proceeded all the way up to a UN position in Kafr Killa, 1 km north of Metulla. They entered the village early in the morning and took control of a residential home, hoping to get several hours of sleep before trying to penetrate Israeli territory to carry out the attack. [passage omitted]

The terrorists carried 7 Kalashnikov's, 6 LAW's [light antitank weapon], 47 grenades of various types, as well as plenty of ammunition for the Kalashnikovs.

The IDF soldiers cordoned off the area as South Lebanese Army [SLA] soldiers took over the house. [passage omitted]

Rabin, Lahd on Car Bomb Attacks in South Lebanon

TA2410144388 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said at today's Cabinet meeting that there have been 20 attempted car bomb attacks against IDF soldiers since the withdrawal from Lebanon. Until Thursday's attack all the attacks failed to cause casualties.

Rabin said that it appears that the latest attack was so costly in fatalities because the order governing the minimum space permitted between vehicles was not heeded. The IDF has drawn the necessary conclusions and will reissue the order.

General Antoine Lahd, South Lebanese Army [SLA] commander, says Syria is encouraging Palestinians and Hizballah terrorists to attack targets in the security zone and in Israel. The SLA commander also told Menahem Horowitz, our correspondent in the north, that through their attacks in southern Lebanon, the Palestinians wish to add their support to the uprising in the territories.

Ben-Aharon on Husayn Interview, Aqaba Meeting

TA2310110988 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 23 Oct 88

[Telephone interview with Yosef Ben-Aharon, Prime Minister's Office director general, by Ilana Dayan and Mikha Friedman—live]

[Text] [Dayan] Usamah al-Baz, director general of the Egyptian President's Office, has said that the Aqaba summit is the most important international event in the past few years. Even if we eliminate some of the exaggeration of this statement, the question still exists: Does this summit mark the beginning of a paving of the road to a Jordanian-Palestinian option or, in other words, is there or will there be someone to talk to?

[Ben-Aharon] We should remember that the Jordanian option—as it was defined before Husayn's disengagement from the territories—meant that Jordan would assume the responsibility of ruling over the territories evacuated by Israel. This is not the case now. The aim of this meeting is to bring Husayn and 'Arafat, namely Jordan and the PLO, closer and into a situation where King Husayn would give his blessing to a move led by the PLO and 'Arafat. This move aims at giving the PLO the right to rule over any territory Israel returns. This is not a Jordanian option at all. This is a PLO option under the patronage of Husayn and Mubarak.

[Friedman] 'Arafat, on the other hand, receives a round of condemnations from rejectionist front leaders such as George Habash and Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha]. Does this not mean that he is abandoning the rigid line typical of the Palestinian organizations after the PLO reconciliation?

[Ben-Aharon] The rejectionist front organizations, as can be recalled, are operated by Syria. Syria is suspicious of any move made by Jordan or Egypt. This, however, does not change the fact that 'Arafat, the PLO, Fatah, and probably a large part of the rejectionists who now express their opposition, would join in as they had before. This especially holds true for Nayif Hawatimah.

[Dayan] In other words, you do not attribute any far-reaching political meaning to this summit, not even the very fact that Mubarak managed to force Husayn and 'Arafat to renew coordination, if only on a minimal level?

[Ben-Aharon] No. It does have political meaning. We must watch closely. The political significance is very serious. The Egyptian ambassador visited me some time ago, and I told him that we are observing, with amazement and concern, the fact that Egypt, which is at peace with us, is acting to advance the goals of the PLO, even though it has not changed its position against Israel and has not amended its convenant. This undoubtedly has political significance. Another meaningful issue is the fact that Egypt is trying to put forward a move spearheaded by the PLO, not Jordan. This is no longer a Jordanian option. This has significance, of course, and I would even say that this is moving toward the extreme.

[Friedman] You said before that Egypt and Jordan in Aqaba are reaching an agreement saying that the territories to be evacuated by Israel will eventually be given to the PLO. Mubarak's adviser, Usamah al-Baz, however, said that a certain degree of understanding on the idea of a future confederation between Jordan and the PLO has been reached. Is it not a hint of progress?

[Ben-Aharon] The words are the same, but there is a substantial difference in content. Whoever read about or watched Husayn's interview on Ted Koppel's Nightline noted that Husayn, unlike in the past, said outright that the PLO is the sole representative of the Palestinians. If the PLO asks me, he said, I would join a plan or participate in negotiations to establish a joint delegation. What we have here is a trick that aims to conceal a clear goal—namely, giving the PLO control within a confederation over whatever territories Israel evacuates. In other words, a Palestinian state that, after it is set up, would request joining some sort of a confederative framework with Jordan.

[Friedman] Finally, Mr Ben-Aharon, I would like to ask you to confirm, if you can, of course, a report appearing in today's HADASHOT stating that Peres implored Husayn to come to Jerusalem before the elections as a part of a dramatic, last-minute peace initiative. Do you know anything about it?

[Ben-Aharon] I know nothing of it. I can confirm, however, that a large part of the recent moves, including Husayn's interview and this summit, is a result of a joint effort by political elements in Israel and Arab countries to influence the voter in Israel.
[Dayan] Mr Ben-Aharon, thank you very much.
[Ben-Aharon] Thank you.

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 23 October in a page 1 report by Ilan Bakhar adds: "'We and other Arab elements will decide what to do with the territories that Israel returns to us. We will agree between ourselves the form of government over the territories.' This reply was given a year ago by Husayn in an answer to a question asked by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. Yosef Ben-Aharon, the Prime Minister's Office director general, who disclosed this yesterday for the first time, said that Husayn's reply proves that he is about to strike a deal with the PLO to divide control over Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip."]

Commentary on Aqaba Meeting, Husayn Involvement

TA2410132188 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
24 Oct 88 p A14

[Commentary by Moshe Zaq: "Fata Morgana in Aqaba"]

[Text] Four years ago Shim'on Peres noted during one of the discussions of the national unity government negotiations that there had been 500 hours of talks held with Husayn. Yitzhaq Rabin, however, had reservations about the number. Now, after 4 more years of talks with Husayn in the 'Arava, London, and Paris, held separately by Peres, Rabin, and even Shamir, the total number of hours is closer to 300. It is not the quantity, however, but rather the quality which is significant. All of the talks have proved that we can reach an understanding with Husayn on bilateral issues which do not generate publicity; in issues which require Palestinian or other Arab involvement, however, Husayn retreats at the last minute and does not implement the agreements.

The best example was seen in the Husayn-'Arafat-Mubarak meeting in Aqaba last weekend. It was supposedly aimed at helping Peres' election campaign, but in reality, it signified the end of the "London agreement" between Husayn and Peres. The "London agreement" was supposed to block the PLO's path to the international conference; the Aqaba meeting, however, brought about a decision concerning a joint Jordanian-PLO delegation. Despite his statement preferring Peres in the elections, Husayn has actually canceled the agreement with him regarding the composition of the international conference.

This agreement was not political, but procedural in nature. Husayn extorted from Peres an agreement concerning the international conference and this also caused a change in the U.S. position on the conference. Husayn has thus proved that he can bring a diplomatic victory to the Arab world, which for years has moved toward an international conference only to be blocked by Israeli-American opposition. In return for this agreement Husayn made some "concessions" to Peres regarding the procedures of the conference. This, however, was an agreement in terms of procedure and not essence, because Husayn has never accepted the formula for territorial compromise.

From the beginning there was little value to this procedural agreement because the conference has always been burdened by the UN decisions regarding the PLO's participation, and it is unlikely that Husayn can change them. Moreover, during the last decade Husayn has often retreated from agreements with the United States every time he ran into Arab opposition. It is difficult to compare the agreements concerning neighborly relations, which have been achieved in secret and quiet discussions, with a public conference with many public sponsors.

It is a fact that the practical, neighborly agreements are still valid, whereas none of the agreements between Jordan and the United States concerning the Israeli-Arab conflict have stood the test of time.

Husayn has never canceled the declaration of annexation of Judaea and Samaria to his kingdom. He spoke about steps of dissociation, but he did not abrogate the law legislated by his grandfather regarding the "West Bank." The PLO has also understood that, from the point of view of international law, the demand for Israeli withdrawal had best be based upon a withdrawal from Jordanian borders. Khalid al-Hasan, one of the PLO's leaders, explained the tactics of using Jordan as an instrument toward the establishment of a Palestinian state: "Without Jordan we cannot enter the enemy camp," he stated, thus explaining the necessity of using the key of a confederation to open the gates to a Palestinian state.

The "confederation" formula raised in Aqaba is not new. 'Arafat has often recalled that he used the formula of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation in joint statements published in Moscow and Beijing following talks with Soviet and Chinese leaders. The raising of the confederation idea in Aqaba was meant to give Husayn the role of the midwife who will deliver the Palestinian state.

Husayn should actually be grateful to Israel—not necessarily to those who did not understand the real significance of his dissociation move and immediately proposed that Israel should negotiate with the PLO, but rather to the "stubborn" who withstood the temptation of talking with the PLO. The Israeli opposition to such talks in 1988—just as it refused to hold talks in 1974, after the Rabat Summit took away from Husayn his right to represent the Palestinians—forces 'Arafat to seek Husayn's help. When 'Arafat was asked to justify his former agreement with Husayn he said: "Through this agreement I came within 25 km of Jerusalem, and it gave me a foothold on the border."

Thanks to Israel's opposition to the PLO, however, Husayn has maneuvering room and can cause the PLO to forego its claim to exclusivity, thus forcing it to involve Jordan in the discussions concerning the Palestinian issue. Husayn may lose this achievement if the Israelis fail to understand him, and instead take his words at face value. If some people in Jerusalem hurry to welcome the confederacy along 'Arafat's lines as a breakthrough toward an arrangement, Husayn may stand to lose. King Husayn knows better than his Israeli and U.S. interlocutors that Hafiz al-Asad will not permit him to bypass Syria in the Palestinian issue. He is familiar with Al-Asad's fear of remaining isolated in the Arab world. Al-Asad has foiled previous Husayn-'Arafat and Husayn-Shultz agreements, and Husayn knows that the Syrian president will not hesitate to create tension in the region in order to foil similar moves which might isolate him in the Arab world.

One may assume that despite his declarations Husayn is secretly praying that Israel will foil the arrangement which Mubarak is trying to force upon him. He remembers how Al-Sadat "conned" him in 1974, when he promised him in Alexandria that he would support Jordan on the issue of Palestinian representation, only to disown his promise in Rabat. Years later Husayn would still warn the Israelis: Beware of Al-Sadat, he will trick you like he tricked me.

Aqaba Talks: 'Honest' Attempt at Joint Delegation

TA2410183788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Excerpt] In Jerusalem, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said the summit meeting in Aqaba between Jordan, Egypt, and the PLO was an honest attempt to promote a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to future peace negotiations. Speaking to foreign reporters, the spokesman said Jordan is again assuming a leading role in any effort to promote the peace process. [passage omitted]

Peres Briefed on U.S. Meeting With Saudi Envoy

TA2310114588 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 23 Oct 88 pp A1, 2

[Report by Ran Dagoni and Ilan Bakhar]

[Excerpt] A clandestine meeting between American Jewish leaders and the Saudi ambassador to Washington took place in New York last month, several days after Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' departure from the United States. This was reported by Kenneth Bialkin, former chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, who was present at the meeting.

The meeting was initiated by and took place at the home of millionaire Steve Shalom, a confidant of Peres. Bialkin and another Jewish leader, who were party to the preparations for the meeting, told MA'ARIV yesterday that the foreign minister had been informed of the impending meeting, had urged holding it, and was later briefed in detail on the meeting's content.

We have been unable to obtain a comment from Steve Shalom, who is out of New York.

According to Bialkin, the Saudi ambassador and the Jewish leaders met for a private dinner, in which "the atmosphere was calm, relaxed, and even pleasant." At the conclusion of the dinner, it was agreed "in principle" that the parties will hold further meetings. The next meeting is apparently to take place in Washington at the Saudi ambassador's residence.

Last weekend, high-level officials in the Foreign Ministry discussed the Saudi ambassador's remarks, which were the subject of keen interest in Jerusalem.

It has been learned that, among other things, Prince Bandar stressed that Saudi Arabia has no complaints about the manner Israel handles the riots in the territories.

Sources in Jerusalem yesterday refused either to confirm or deny the reports alleging that Minister Peres had knowledge of or was briefed on the New York meeting between the Saudi ambassador and the Jewish community leaders.

About 3 months ago, the first meeting between a senior Jewish leader, who is considered one of the major figures of the Jewish establishment, and Saudi Ambassador Prince Bandar ibn Sultan, was held at the residence of another Arab country's ambassador. As far as is known, Peres had no knowledge of that first meeting.

According to one source, Ambassador Bandar revealed that Saudi Arabia is urging 'Arafat to recognize Israel. He emphasized that Saudi Arabia does not intend to harm Israel and expressed the hope that peace will be attained. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Appointments Announced

TA2410184088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] The Foreign Ministry's appointments committee decided today to appoint several new ambassadors: Yitzhaq Li'or, currently an assistant director general, will be Israel's ambassador to the permanent UN missions in Geneva; Mikha'el Bavli will serve as Israel's ambassador to South Africa; Shmu'el Ovnat will be the next ambassador in New Zealand; and Yitzhaq Shefi, another assistant director general, will be the ambassador in Argentina.

At the same time, the committee decided not to discuss the appointments of ambassadors to the United Nations, France, Brazil, Romania, or Poland at this point. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that these appointments will be made only after the elections and under the new foreign minister.

Gerasimov: 'No Knowledge' of Official Visit

TA2110152588 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 21 Oct 88 Page A7

[Text] Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov sought last night to downplay the significance of the Soviet vote supporting the expulsion of Israel from the United Nations.

"This is merely a voting tradition which contains nothing new," the spokesman told MA'ARIV in a telephone conversation from Moscow. "In any event, I suggest that you also ask the head of the Soviet delegation to the United Nations, Mr Petrovskiy."

The spokesman's remarks confirmed through implication that there is indeed a contradiction between his country's support for the convention of an international conference for the solution of the Middle East conflict, and its vote in the United Nations.

In reply to another question, Mr Gerasimov said that "he has no knowledge" of Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze intending to visit Israel next month as part of a visit to the Middle East. A report to this effect was published this week in the Kuwaiti AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM.

[Tel Aviv THE NATION in English on 21 October 88, in a report by James Levene on page three adds: "A highly placed political source here said a report that Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze would visit Israel in November was 'nonsense.'" The source was further quoted saying, "There is absolutely no evidence to support such a report," and "It would take a long time before a high-level official visit could take place."]

Envoy Notes Soviet 'Downplaying' of Contacts

TA2410203888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] Meron Gordon, the head of the Israeli consular delegation in Moscow, has said that the number of Jews wishing to leave the Soviet Union who seek visas to Israel has increased recently. He believes this stems from the more lenient procedures introduced by the Soviets for the issuing of exit permits.

Speaking to our correspondent in Moscow Yig'al Rom, Mr Gordon said that he believes the local authorities will extend the Israeli delegation's permit. Nonetheless, he noted that the Soviets were downplaying their contacts with the Israeli delegation. So far, its members have only conferred with junior Foreign Ministry officials.

Romania To Ship Soviet Raw Materials to Israel

TA2410192688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] The Romanian Government will help promote deals involving raw materials, oil, coal, and diamonds by shipping them from the Soviet Union to Israel via Romania. This was announced by Ioan Ungur, the minister of foreign trade and international economic cooperation, who is visiting Israel as the guest of Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon.

Our correspondent Menahem Friedman reports that at the end of the week the two ministers will sign a bilateral trade agreement.

Cabinet Ratifies EEC Trade Protocols

TA2510095888 Tel Aviv THE NATION in English 25 Oct 88 p 3

[Report by James Levene]

[Text] The cabinet ratified yesterday trade protocols with the European Community. The protocols were signed by the European parliament in Brussels last year after long delays. The Knesset, which normally ratifies such agreements, is in recess.

The government decided to undertake the ratification to avoid delays if the matter were to be postponed until after the elections. Special regulations allow the government to take such action, though the document will be submitted to the Knesset for retroactive approval.

Tourism Minister Avraham Sharir and Transport Minister Haim Corfu briefed the cabinet yesterday on their visits to Hungary and the treaties signed there.

President Herzog Returns From France

TA2110165688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 21 Oct 88

[Text] President Hayim Herzog returned this afternoon from his state visit to France. At Ben-Gurion Airport he was met by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, Knesset Speaker Shlomo Hilel, Education Minister Yitzhaq Navon, and Chief of Staff Dan Shomron. Our correspondent Sheli Yehimovich reports that the president said he is indeed experienced in such visits, but the visit to France was different and moving. He got the impression that President Mitterrand is a true friend of Israel. President Herzog refused to say which issues were raised in his talks in France.

Palestinian Notables on Elections, Issues

TA2410093388 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Oct 88 p 5

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpt] [Passage omittted] Dr. Sari Nusaybah of Bi'r Zayt University, a long-time advocate of addressing Israeli public opinion, says it would be "bad psychology and bad politics" for the PLO to come out now with a dramatic policy declaration, on the eve of the elections in Israel. "Now, it's too late. The public mood in Israel should have been taken into account sufficiently in advance, to be able to have an influence. We have not enough time and different methods to influence public opinion in Israel [sentence as published]. A declaration at the last minute is a big risk, and could backfire."

In any event, Nusaybah says, the intifada [uprising] cannot be slowed in the weeks prior to the balloting, since it is not a machine that can be regulated by the push of a button. The uprising leadership, he argues, has in its leaflets already addressed Israeli public opinion in reasonable language, putting forward pragmatic proposals for negotiations and interim measures leading to withdrawal and coexistence between Israel and a Palestinian state.

Nusaybah prefers the positions of the Labour Party, because it supports an international peace conference; but he sees only "marginal" differences between its views and those of the Likud. "The Labour proposals of limited territorial withdrawal, within the context of Israeli domination, are in effect a kind of autonomy proposal, which the Likud is offering," he says.

Zuhayr al-Ris of Gaza concurs. Al-Ris, one of the architects of the Palestine National Covenant, speaks Hebrew, has met with Defence Minister Rabin, and confesses to an avid interest in the election broadcasts, which he watches nightly on television. He strongly rejects Labour's election pitch.

"The
'generals' plan put forward by Labour is a very bad deal for us, and treats us as a 'demographic' or 'security' problem. The area they leave us is not even the width of a kitchen knife, and this, coupled with free fly-over in our skies cannot be squared with self-determination, sovereignty and self respect. I think it's rather humiliating.

"The two parties seem to be preoccupied with maintaining the purity of the Jewish state, with how to get rid of us or shunt us aside, and are not dealing with us as a people who have rights." Though the campaign platforms of both major parties are unacceptable to Al-Ris, he expects them to adopt more pragmatic political positions after the elections.

In any case, he says, now is not the time for Palestinian concessions at home or abroad to influence the campaign. The elections in Israel will render such gestures ineffective, and the moves could split Palestinian ranks. "We have to wait and see," he says. "Now it's a completely internal Israeli matter."

Ziyad Abu Zayyad, editor of the Hebrew-language Palestinian newspaper, GESHER, is also offended by Labour's reference to Palestinians as a demographic problem. "Such language is not conducive to talking about peace," he says. "It implies that since the Arabs are a demographic threat, one has to get rid of them, and this serves the right-wing and its calls for 'transfer.' Labour is making a big mistake. We are a people, not a problem."

Scaling down the intifada to promote political moderation at the Israeli polls is impossible, according to Abu Zayyad. "What is happening in the streets is a revolution, coming from the roots, and is not responsive to political games," he says. On the political level, Abu Zayyad supports a pragmatic PLO initiative that would boost moderate parties in the elections, but he does not believe this likely now, since the PLO is still sorting out various plans of action.

Jack Khazmu, editor of AL-BAYADIR AL-SIYASI magazine, would also prefer a PLO initiative as early as possible, but notes the danger of having the organization blamed for trying to influence the elections in Israel or the United States. He condemns violence, and says the uprising should remain "clean," sending a message to Israelis that it is aimed against the occupation, not against Israel.

Khazmu, whose magazine has given extensive coverage to election developments in Israel and among Israeli Arabs, expects more from a strong Likud government than from a Labour cabinet with a narrow Knesset majority. The Likud, he says, could in the long term be persuaded to modify its policies, and implement them with wide political backing. A Labour government with a weak majority might move quicker toward negotiations, but would be seriously debilitated by a large and active right-wing opposition. Only a solid Labour-left majority would be preferable to the Likud, says Khazmu.

In the end, he says, what counts is Israeli public opinion, and its ability to influence its leadership—regardless of the party in power—to pursue peace with the Palestinians. [passage omitted]

'Power Struggle' Among 3 Arab Parties Analyzed

TA2310125788 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Oct 88 p 15

[Report by Rut Rodner]

[Excerpts] A poll conducted in the Arab sector at the beginning of October by the Al-Bustani company in association with Teleseqer and the publication AL-ARD gives the Alignment only 2 seats in the next Knesset out of an electoral potential of 14. Perhaps the truly big surprise in the election campaign in the Arab street is the success of 'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah, head of the Arab Democratic Party. He will apparently acquire more than the minimum quota, and he is now even talking about having a third seat.

Darawshah's success has probably surprised the two other Arab parties, which had hoped to have a share of the voters who are disappointed with the Alignment. HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] and the Progressive List for Peace [PLP] claim that Darawshah is nothing but a satellite of the Alignment, which foresaw the loss of Arab votes and forestalled it by creating an Arab party whose seats in the Knesset have been promised to a coalition with the Alignment.

Knesset Member Mati Peled [of the PLP] adamantly told HA'ARETZ that Darawshah's party is financed by the Alignment. Muhammad Watad, who had left MAPAM for HADASH, contends that even before the uprising in the territories, 'Ezer Weizman held talks with Avner Regev, a Middle East expert employed by the Alignment, regarding the establishment of a fictitious Arab party. Watad himself was offered membership in the proposed party. [passage omitted]

Darawshah reiterates almost automatically his conditions for joining an Alignment-headed coalition. These include the establishment alongside Israel of a Palestinian state which would be decided by an international conference, in which the PLO would represent the Palestinians. [passage omitted]

The power struggle between the three parties is understandable, particularly in view of the difficulty in discerning a difference between their political platforms, which are practically identical. HADASH is still recognizable owing to its proximity to communism; the PLP is likewise, because of the Arab-Jewish coexistence in its ranks. Darawshah's uniqueness lies in him heading the only Arab party.

The participation in a government coalition of a party whose electors are mostly Arabs may now be closer than ever. If these three parties, however, find themselves either in opposition or in a Likud-blocking body, they will have missed their goal.

Likud, Labor on PLO 'Intervention' in Elections

TA2510090288 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Oct 88 p 12

[Text] "It's the ultimate hutzpah that the head of a terrorist organization should intervene in the elections in Israel," sources from the Prime Minister's office told THE JERUSALEM POST yesterday. The sources were referring to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's call on Israelis to vote for the "peace seeking" parties who acknowledge the PLO as the Palestinian's representative.

The sources said they were convinced that no loyal Israeli citizen would do as 'Arafat says.

"However, it seems that the fashion of Arab elements interfering with Israel's election process is spreading, which is extremely regrettable," the sources added.

Peres aide Uri Savir yesterday told THE POST that "the elections in Israel are none of 'Arafat's business and he should avoid any further intervention."

Savir noted that this was a rare instance of agreement between Labour and Likud. "It happens about once a year," he said.

On the other hand, Israeli Arab leaders welcomed the PLO's statement with representatives of the three "Arab" parties expressing different views on its influence.

Democratic Front for Peace and Equality spokesman 'Uzi Burstein said the announcement emphasized the PLO's willingness to talk peace with Israel. However, the choice of party would rest with the voters. "We trust the integrity and responsibility of the electorate to vote according to their principals," he said.

Progressive List for Peace MK—[Knesset Member] Muhammad Mi'ari said he had expected a PLO announcement carefully worded so as not to appear that the PLO was intervening in Israel's internal affairs. He was optimistic the message would increase the Arab vote.

Asad 'Azayzah, an activist in 'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah's Arab Democratic Party, said the PLO's call following on the heels of the recent tripartite talks in Aqaba would help swing wavering Israeli Arab voters to the peace camps.

Polls Reflect Close Race in Upcoming Elections

Race Narrows to 2 Seats

TA2110160788 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 21 Oct 88 pp A1, 2

[Text] The percentage of uncertain votes has decreased from 25 to under 16.5 percent. The gap between the two major parties has narrowed to a mere two seats: 42 for the Alignment to 40 for the Likud. The draw between the two major blocs remains unchanged. The Pensioners list will probably manage to acquire the minimum quota, and its television propaganda broadcasts may even get it a second seat. These are some of the findings of the poll conducted in the last few days by the Israeli Public Opinion and Consumption Habits Polling Institute Ltd, directed by Dr Moshe Barbie of the Bar Ilan University. The poll was conducted after the disqualification of the Kakh list.

The second poll, conducted by Dr Rahel Yisre'eli, the Modi'in Ezrahi Research Institute director, shows that the Alignment will receive only 33 seats, while the Likud will gain 40 seats. This poll still includes the Kakh list.

The Modi'in Ezrahi polls are conducted through personal interviews in a representative nationwide survey, which includes rural and urban settlements, but does not include kibbutzim and settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

In a reply to the Israeli Institute's question regarding the quality of the election propaganda broadcasts, 76 percent expressed an unfavorable opinion, while 24 percent were favorably impressed.

Party	Modi'in Ezrahi	Israeli Institute
Likud, Ometz	40	40
Alignment, Yahad	33	42
National Religious Party " Morasha	5	3-4
SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim]	3	3-4
Agudat Yisra'el	2	2
Tehiya	7	7
Tzomet	2	1
Citizens Rights Movement	9	6-7
Center-Shinuy	1	1-2
Democratic Front for Peace and Equality, Progressive List for Peace, Darawshah	8	6
Kakh	5	-
MAPAM	3	2
Memad	1	0-1
Degel Torah [Torah Flag]	1	1-2
Others	-	-
Pensioners	-	1-2

'Close Race' Reflected in Polls

TA2110165888 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 21 Oct 88 p 1

[Text] Only 10 days before election day the race between the two major blocs still continues to be close, as reflected in the two following forecasts. The Dahaf forecast was conducted on 16 October (before the disqualification of the Kakh Party) and it encompassed 1,172 Jewish participants polled in private interviews. The Decima poll, which was conducted in the last two weeks and was updated after the disqualification of Kakh, encompassed 2,647 Jewish and 900 Arab interviewees. [figures in parentheses represent poll results from early October]

Party	Dahaf Forecast Edge to Right Wing: 59:61		Decima Forecast Edge to Left Wing: 58:62	
Alignment	41	(42)	42	(42+)
Likud	40	(41)	39-	(37)
Citizens Rights Movement	5+	(5)	8	(9-)
Tehiya	6	(5)	7	(6)
MAPAM	3+	(3)	2	(1)
Tzomet	2	(2)	1+	(2)
Center-Shinuy	2-	(2)	2	(1)
National Religious Party	4	(4)	4	(4)
Agudat Yisra'el	2	(2)	2-	(3-)
SHAS	3	(3)	3	(3)
Memad	1-	(-)	1+	(1+)
Kakh	3	(3)	-	(3)
Moledet	-	(-)	1-	(-)
Democratic Front for Peace and Equality	6	(6)	5	(6+)
Progressive List for Peace Darawshah	2	(2)	3-	(2)

Tie Indicated Between Main Blocs

TA2210053188 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
21 Oct 88 p 1

[Poll by Hanokh and Rafi Smith]

[Text] A public opinion poll which was conducted less than 2 weeks before election day indicates a tie between the two large parties and the two blocs.

In comparison with the previous elections, a characteristic of the current situation is a considerable decline in votes for the two large parties on the one hand, and a large rise for the Citizens Rights Movement [CRM], and some rise for the Tehiya and the religious parties, on the other.

The poll was conducted between 16 to 18 October among about 1,200 people constituting a representative sample of the adult Jewish population (including people in kibbutzim, moshavim, and Judaea and Samaria). The poll was conducted for DAVAR and HADASHOT at the beginning of the week, after the disqualification of Kakh by the central election committee and before its final disqualification by the Supreme Court. As can be seen in the table below, 4 percent were still "floating votes."

The interviewees were asked the following question: Which party would you have voted for had the Knesset elections been held today? The table below gives the sum total of their answers (the results of the elections for the 11th Knesset are given only for the Jewish sector's voting).

Party	1984 Knesset elections results (in percentage)	Poll results (in percentage)
Likud	36	32
Alignment (including Yahad) (1)	38	31.5
CRM	2.5	6.5
Tehiya	4.5	6
National Religious Party	3.5	3.8
MAPAM	—	2.5
Tzomet	—	2.5
Center-Shinuy	2.5	1.5
Memad	—	1
Kakh (before its disqualification)	1.5	1
Other religious parties	8	6
Other parties	3	1.5
Undecided	—	4

The poll does not include the Arab sector for which a poll will be conducted in the coming days.

(1) The Alignment's percentage in 1984 included MAPAM.

Results Vary After Debate

TA2410111288 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
24 Oct 88 pp 1, 4

[Report by parties affairs correspondent Ilan Shehori—all statistics as published]

[Excerpt] Both Likud and Alignment election headquarters last night claimed an impressive victory in the televised debate between Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Shamir. Both parties last night conducted polls right after the debate was aired, with each receiving results showing its victory.

The Haifa-based independent polling institution Migdam, a firm specializing in statistical consulting and managed by 'Imanu'el Ohana and Dr Yitzhaq Dayan, last night determined that Shim'on Peres' victory was clear-cut.

According to the Migdam poll, in which 400 residents of Tel Aviv, Haifa, and Jerusalem were questioned, it became apparent that 21 percent of those polled said that Peres won the debate. Only 12 percent said Shamir won, and another 17 percent said it was a tie. Answering another question, only 5 percent said that their position changed as a result of the debate. Some 5 percent claimed that their views had strengthened, while 85 percent declared that their position had not altered at all.

The Decima institute last night conducted a telephone survey for the Alignment among 202 people who in previous polls had declared themselves undecided. According to this poll, Peres won unequivocally, with 51.7 percent of the vote. Only 29 percent claimed that Shamir won the debate, while 23 percent of those asked said the result was a tie. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 24 October in a page 1 report by Nurit Dovrat and Avshalom Ginosar publishes the results of a "poll conducted by the Israeli Institute for Polls and Consumption Habits, Ltd for MA'ARIV, based on a representative sampling conducted by Dr Moshe Barbi of Bar Ilan University. The question was: Who was better? It was answered as follows: 48.4 percent said that Peres was better; 41.5 percent said Shamir was; 10.1 percent said there was a tie; 25 percent declared that they did not watch the debate. Another finding shows that 92 percent did not change their mind as a result of the debate. The other 8 percent are divided as follows: 5 percent said they would switch their vote from the Likud to the Alignment, while 3 percent said the opposite."]

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 24 October reports the results of a poll conducted for the paper by the Teleseqer institute. "The poll was conducted on a nationwide representative sample of 460 interviewees, of which 313 (68 percent) said they watched the debate. The questions were devised by the newspaper's editors.

"Here are their answers:

"1. Which of the two provided more convincing solutions for the following issues: (figures given in percentages)

	Shamir	Peres
Peace negotiations:	31.3	53.5
Economic matters:	28.8	48.8
Security matters:	34.1	46.6

"2. Which of the two seems to you to be more—

	Shamir	Peres
familiar with the issues?	25.8	50.4
reliable a leader	36.7	46.2
suitable to be prime minister?	33.0	51.4
convincing?	27.2	54.0

"3. Will the debate influence your vote on election day? Yes—35.2 percent. No—37.2 percent. Maybe—18.8 percent."]

Election Surplus Vote Agreements Reviewed

TA2310182088 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 23 Oct 88 p 2

[Text] By Friday, the following surplus vote agreements were announced by parties running for the 12th Knesset:

—The Alignment and the Citizens Rights Movement.
—SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] and Degel Hatorah.
—The Likud and Tehiya.
—Center-Shinuy and MAPAM.

Friday afternoon was the last chance for the parties to announce their surplus vote agreements.

Further on Casualties, Incidents in Territories

1 Death Reported in Nabulus

TA2410201388 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] A resident of in Farah near Nabulus died today. The IDF is investigating the circumstances of his death. A Nabulus resident was injured by stones thrown in the casbah. Our correspondent Beni Liss reports from the casbah:

[Begin videorecording] A group of youths not older than 15 set up a roadblock and set tires on fire. An IDF observation post will undoubtedly notice the clouds of black smoke and promptly dispatch a jeep on patrol. This is the boys' intention. When the jeep arrives they will attack it with rocks.

The patrol did arrive, and was immediately pelted with dozens of bottles. The soldiers spread over the area. Shots could be heard.

This is often the scenario depicting the lives of the IDF soldiers in the area right now. There are no more demonstrations. A demonstration involving 20 boys and youths is considered large. The occurrence of roadblocks is not as common as it was not so long ago. The markets are open more often than before, observing longer opening hours.

A superficial observation indicates that life currently proceeds almost normally. Yet one must still remember this: There is still violence, the strike is continuing and establishing its own routine, pamphlets are still published and distributed, graffiti are still painted, the strike forces are still active, and locals suspected of collaboration are still attacked. Nevertheless, one could say that the majority of the population is not party to the present violent activity. [end recording]

'Violent Demonstration' in Gaza

TA2410205388 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2030 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] A 7-year old Rafah boy sustained serious chest injuries from a plastic bullet shot at him during the dispersal of a violent demonstration held in town this evening. The boy, 'Ali Hasan Abu 'Ubrah, was rushed to Sheba Medical Center at Tel Hashomer. Another demonstrator, a 16-year old resident of Rafah, sustained slight leg injuries from a plastic bullet. He was hospitalized in Al-Nasir Hospital in Khan Yunus.

Our correspondent 'Ezra Yanuv adds that this afternoon two youths sustained leg injuries in the Al-Nusayrat refugee camp. They were admitted to Al-Shifa' Hospital in Gaza.

The major disturbances in the Gaza District today occurred in the Rafah region, while quiet prevailed in the other areas.

A short while ago, a border policeman was attacked in the Abu Tor area of Jerusalem. A number of Arabs, three of them 15 years old, assaulted him, but did not hurt him. They were detained. Our police affairs correspondent Shlomi Stein reports that the incident occurred after roadblocks were placed in the area. A Border Police unit pursued the boys who had set up the roadblock. Three of the boys then tried to beat the policeman. The police used rubber bullets and tear gas to calm the area down.

Bedouin Youth Imprisoned 10 Months for Stoning

TA2210052988 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Oct 88 p A7

[Text] [ITIM]—A 10-month prison term, 2 years of conditional imprisonment, and a 2,500-shekel fine were imposed yesterday by a Beersheba district judge, Yitzhaq Shabtay, on a Bedouin youth who was convicted of having thrown stones at a car, smashing its windshield. The judge found the youth to have deep-seated nationalistic hostility because, after his interrogation by the police, the defendant told family members who were waiting for him as follows: "I threw the stone because I'm out to get the Jews with the skullcap."

The incident took place on 29 January 1988, near the Tel 'Arad intersection. A group of Bedouin youths threw stones at cars traveling on the road. A windshield was smashed on the car of Yohay Mu'alim who miraculously escaped injury. That very same day the driver identified a 17-year-old youth of the Jabu' tribe as the thrower of the stone which hit his car. Detained with him was a 15-year-old youth of the Abu Jawda tribe who took part in the stone throwing. The younger boy was sentenced to 40 days in prison. The judge determined that apparently he did not hit any cars at all, but was merely tagging along after the others.

As for the older boy, the judge said he was clearly identified as the thrower of the stone hitting the car.

Research Indicates 'Clear Signs' of Oil

TA2110185188 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 21 Oct 88 p 2

[Report by Hayim Margalit]

[Text] "The geologists think there is oil in this land; there are clear signs of oil and we should find it." This was declared by Dr Tzefanya Kohen, the chief geologist of the HANAL-HANA [Hebrew acronym for National Oil Company-Oil Searches-Investments Company] Company who headed a team which prepared a survey on the potential discovery of oil and gas in Israel in general, and in the coastal strip in particular. The survey was turned over to Energy and Infrastructure Minister Moshe Shahal in a ceremony which took place yesterday.

In his speech, Dr Kohen elaborated on the work involved in the survey which was conducted with the help of researchers from the Tel Aviv and Beersheba universities as well as foreign experts. He expressed the hope that the survey is a first stage, to be followed by additional research culminating in the discovery of oil. Energy and Infrastructure Minister Moshe Shahal, who congratulated the researchers, stated that in spring 1989 Dr Armand Hammer's "Amesco" [as published] company will begin oil drilling in the coastal strip.

9 Suspected Heroin Dealers Arrested

TA2210173288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 19 Oct 88

[Text] Police in the Sharon region have arrested nine people suspected of heading a heroin drug ring in the Triangle. The arrests were carried out in the early hours of this morning. They followed months of investigations that included the purchasing of the drugs by an undercover detective in Jaljuliya, Al-Tira, and Al-Tayyibah.

Joint Committee With Palestinians Meets 24 Oct

JN2410172688 Amman Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] The joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee for supporting the steadfastness of Palestinian people in the occupied territories held a session of [as heard] its main office in Amman today. During the meeting, the committee discussed the situation of occupied lands and made a comprehensive evaluation of the most important current activities to support Arab citizens there.

King Husayn Confers Medals on Iraqi Officials

JN2210074288 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22 Oct 88 p 3

[Text] Amman (Petra)-His Majesty King Husayn Thursday conferred on Iraqi Armed Forces Chief of Staff Nizar 'Abd al-Karim Faysal, Jordan's Military Medal of the First Order and awarded members of his delegation distinguished Jordanian medals.

The medals were presented to Faysal and his delegation by Armed Forces Chief of Staff Fathi Abu Talib at a meeting in the Army headquarters in the presence of senior military officers. The two sides discussed Jordanian-Iraqi military cooperation before the Iraqi team left for home.

Faysal and his delegation had toured a number of military positions in Jordan and met with high ranking army officers.

King Visits AL-RA'Y, JORDAN TIMES Offices

JN2510071588 Amman Domestic Service in English 0530 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] His majesty the king yesterday visited the offices of the Jordan Press Foundation, publisher of AL-RA'Y and the JORDAN TIMES dailies, during which he met with the editor in chief and members of the editorial staff. His majesty the king gave his directives to develop the journalistic process and direct it into the right path. His majesty the king underlined the role of AL-RA'Y newspaper stressing the necessity of enriching the paper with useful material to its readers.

His majesty the king said he wants the Jordanian press to be a beacon that reflects aspirations and hopes of Jordan, the inheritor of the Great Arab Revolt and its immortal message. His majesty added that the press should set an example with its honest word, free opinion, and constructive criticism as well as credibility in the Kingdom and all over the Arab world.

His majesty stressed the huge responsibilities laid on the Jordanian press which requires from the staff honesty, strenuous endeavors, and adherence to journalistic sincerity. The AL-RA'Y and other Jordanian papers, his majesty added, should handle news stories candidly, realistically, and clearly.

Present at the meeting were Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, Chief of the Royal Hashemite Court Marwan al-Qasim, and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces Field Marshal al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, and Minister of Information Dr Hani al-Khasawinah.

Professional Unions Boycott AL-RA'Y Newspaper

JN2210125588 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 20 Oct 88 pp 1, 17

[Text] Amman—AL-BAYAN has learned that the heads of the Jordanian professional unions decided at a meeting held yesterday to boycott the Jordanian newspaper AL-RA'Y in terms of distribution and advertisement.

Reliable sources told AL-BAYAN that a statement explaining this measure will be issued today, Thursday. This statement will be sent to all members and associates of the professional unions, which comprise pharmacists, doctors, dentists, lawyers, engineers, and agricultural engineers, asking them not to buy any issues of AL-RA'Y nor advertise in it.

This measure is taken against the first Jordanian newspaper after its chief editor, who is also the doyen of Jordanian journalists, and others wrote articles demanding the dissolution of the professional unions on the pretext that they have turned into political concentrations and not professional unions whose task is to look after professionals and promote professions in Jordan.

Air Force Receives British-Made Radar Stations

JN2510123888 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 23 Oct 88 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that Jordan recently received a number of sophisticated, British-made, C-711 radar stations to bolster its air defense system and that it will receive five other such stations next spring after Jordanian personnel have been trained in Britain to operate and maintain them.

Western military sources told AL-ITTIHAD that the Royal Jordanian Air Force has recently shown great interest in obtaining the British-Swiss made "Pilatus Defender" monitoring and early warning aircraft to provide the necessary radar coverage of Jordanian territory. The sources said that one such aircraft recently made a demonstration tour of Jordan.

Paper Claims 'Arafat Supporters Cause Dinar Drop

JN2310103888 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 23 Oct 88

[Text] The London weekly newspaper MAIL ON SUNDAY says that during the past few days, Yasir 'Arafat's supporters withdrew their deposits in Jordanian dinars and transferred them to U.S. dollars, which led to the collapse in the dinar's exchange rate in international financial markets.

The newspaper says that the total that 'Arafat's supporters withdrew from Jordanian banks amounts to $1 billion. It adds that this was discussed during the meeting between King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat in Aqaba yesterday.

Bank Official on Dinar Rate, Monetary Policy

JN2310152988 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Oct 88

[Text] Dr Mahir Shukri, deputy governor of the Central Bank has said the CBJ [Central Bank of Jordan] is currently studying setting up an establishment to secure Jordanian exports to remove any noncommercial risks to Jordanian exporters. He expressed hope that this establishment will be set up before the end of this year. He pointed out that the government will work to establish a fund to support exports.

Dr Shukri added that the exchange rate policy implemented recently means giving the CBJ full flexibility in pricing foreign currencies. He said: We allowed the dinar to decline to the current levels to help the market balance itself. The main objective of this is to remove the difference between the market rate and the offficial rate determined by the CBJ.

In an interview with the magazine AL-TANMIYAH issued by the Ministry of Information, to be published at the end of this month, he said reducing the rate of any currency has several conditional positive aspects. This means that if we reduce the rate of any currency, and if the countries that constitute our natural markets reduce their own currency rates by a greater percentage than ours, it will seem as if we have done nothing. But if we reduce the currency rate while maintaining the large budget deficit, and if expenditure remains great, then the negative aspects will outweigh the positive because they will be reflected in the form of a high inflation rate.

But if the flexible exchange rate policy is applied and the currency allowed to decline to its natural rate while maintaining a reduced budget deficit and controlling consumption, then the positive results will greatly increased. In addition, exports will increase, imports will decrease, and the use of unutilized energy will rise. This means an increase in both production and investment. The same can be said of the agricultural, transportation, and all production sectors, which will benefit from this phenomenon.

Dr Shukri pointed out that in the past decade the monetary policy has focused on promoting the structure of the monetary and banking systems. He said: We can say we have a banking system that is one of the most advanced in the region. We also have banking and monetary systems that are considered equal to those in developed countries. He added that in the past 2 years the CBJ has adopted several measures to gradually increase the effectiveness of monetary policy tools.

Army Chief Returns From Visit to Turkey

JN2110214488 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 21 Oct 88

[Text] Amman—Staff Field Marshal al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the [Jordanian] Armed Forces, and his military delegation returned to Amman this evening following an official visit to Turkey lasting several days. During the visit, he met with the Turkish defense minister and discussed aspects of joint cooperation between the two friendly countries. The Turkish defense minister praised the role of His Majesty King Husayn in strengthening and maintaining the deep Jordanian-Turkish relations.

The commander in chief also met with the Turkish joint chief of staff and a number of senior military officials. Staff Field Marshal al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir visited a number of military institutions, colleges, factories, and formations. He was briefed on training and administrative matters and on the developed electronic instruments used in the manufacture of modern weapons.

Upon return, he was received at Queen Alia International Airport by Staff General Fathi Abu Talib, chief of staff, and his assistants; the commander of the Jordanian Air Force; and the Turkish ambassador and military attache in Amman.

Al-Tabba' Returns From Trade Discussions in Egypt

JN2210090488 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 22 Oct 88 p 2

[Excerpts] Amman—AL-RA'Y—Industry and Trade Minister Hamdi al-Tabba' and his delegation returned to Amman from Cairo yesterday after a 4-day visit to Egypt. Al-Tabba' said his visit to Egypt was due to a decision by the joint Jordanian-Egyptian higher committee, which assigned the Egyptian minister of international cooperation and Mr Al-Tabba' the task of following up the committee's decisions in its recent meeting in Amman. [passage omitted]

On trade cooperation between Jordan and Egypt, Al-Tabba' said that the subject of the equitable deal, amounting to $110 million, was discussed. He pointed out that an agreement to export $28 million worth of Jordanian cement to Egypt was reached. [passage omitted]

Minister Leaves To Discuss Labor Ties With India

JN2210205288 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Oct 88

[Text] Labor Minister Marwan Dudin has left Amman for New Delhi on an official week-long visit to India. During the visit, he will hold talks with his Indian counterpart on labor relations between the two countries.

In a statement to PETRA, the minister said that during the visit, a bilateral labor agreement will be signed organizing the use of the Indian manpower in Jordan, the employment of Indian workers in Jordan, and the exchange of information between the two labor ministries in the manpower field.

AL-DUSTUR Praises Aqaba Talks, Peace Stand

JN2410084688 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 24 Oct 88 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "The Aqaba Meeting and the Constants of the Jordanian Stand"]

[Text] Political observers and various circles interested in the developments of the situation in the region view the Aqaba talks as a major event which will give impetus to lame peace march in the Middle East. To us, these talks are a major contribution within the framework of bolstering the special and distinguished Jordanian-Palestinian relations.

Perhaps this summary of the results of the Aqaba talks is what King Husayn wanted to stress when his majesty expressed his full satisfaction with these talks and with role of direct meetings with the brothers in consolidating the special relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples.

Held in an atmosphere of sincere pan-Arab brotherhood, these talks have stressed the pillars of the Jordanian stand based on considering the PLO the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people and a central partner to the peace march, especially after Jordan's decisions, which have contributed toward emphasizing the national Palestinan identity and asserting the PLO's major role in reaching a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli dispute.

These talks reassert the pillars of the Jordanian stand which continues to adhere to the option of a just and comprehensive peace through an international conference on the Middle East under UN supervision to be attended by the five UN Security Council permanent member states, in addition to all parties to the dispute, including the PLO.

This stand, which receives worldwide respect and extreme appreciation is now being reaffirmed through this unprecedented media coverage of the Aqaba talks, the intensive political follow-up of these talks by various eastern and western states, and the profound satisfaction they generated among all those interested in peaceful diplomatic efforts to convene the aspired international conference.

Taking all this into account, the results of the Aqaba Husayn-Mubarak-'Arafat talks can be viewed as an event of great importance within the framework of peaceful efforts and a more important development in the field of joint Arab relations of coordination and cooperation toward political developments.

Above all, as King Husayn described them most accurately, the Aqaba talks are a major and important contribution toward consolidating the special and distinguished relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples.

Islamic Jihad Threatens Italian Authorities

NC2410190188 Paris AFP in English 1855 GMT 24 Oct

[Text] Beirut, Oct 24 (AFP)—An organization purporting to be the Islamic Jihad on Monday denied any links to a Lebanese woman, arrested last Thursday in Milan, Italy, and who allegedly carried photos of two American hostages held in Lebanon.

"We urge the Italian authorities to publish the photo of Terry Anderson to reveal the truth," a statement issued by the Islamic Jihad and given to a Western news agency said.

All information on the existence of photos of Mr. Anderson were "merely allegations devoid of truth," the statement said.

Mr. Anderson, 40, was the ASSOCIATED PRESS Middle East director based in Beirut at the time of his abduction there in March 1985.

If Italian authorities failed to respond, the statement added, the group would consider them fully responsible (Eds: correct) accomplices and the action "would not go unpunished."

Aline Ibrahim Rizqallah, 36, was to have handed the photos to an Italian businessman who had revealed arms trafficking between Italy and the Middle East when she was arrested, police in Milan said Sunday.

She was stopped after police found the pictures, some counterfeit dollars and drugs in a routine airport check.

"The fact that the woman named Aline Rizqallah is politically linked to Israel's agents and that she is a drug runner is sufficient proof she has no ties, close or distant, to any matter concerning us," the Islamic Jihad statement said.

In addition to pictures of Mr. Anderson and Alann Steen, a professor at Beirut University College abducted in January 1987, Italian police said Mrs. Rizqallah had a photograph of a third man who was not identified.

Since 1984, Islamic Jihad has claimed responsibility for the kidnapping in Lebanon of 12 Westerners.

It has freed three Frenchmen and four Americans, but another three are believed to have died in captivity: Michel Seurat, a Frenchman, U.S. diplomat William Buckley and British teacher Denis Hill.

Italy Accused of 'Lying'

NC2410204488 Paris AFP in English 2036 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Excerpts] Beirut, Oct 24 (AFP)—An organization purporting to be the Islamic Jihad on Monday accused Italy of "lying" about details concerning the arrest of a Lebanese woman allegedly carrying photos of American hostages held in Lebanon, and threatened unspecified "punishment".

It also denied any ties to Aline Ibrahim Rizqallah, 36, who was arrested last Thursday in Milan, Italy, and who was allegedly carrying 1,000 dollars in counterfeit banknotes and 50 grams (1.7 ounces) of heroin concealed in a capsule in her vagina.

All reports on the existence of photos of hostage Terry Anderson were "merely allegations devoid of truth," a statement issued by the Islamic Jihad and given to a Western news agency said.

It was the third such communique by the pro-Iranian fundamentalist group in four days and was accompanied by a color instant photo of Mr. Anderson, 40, the ASSOCIATED PRESS Middle East director based in Beirut at the time of his abduction there in March 1985. [passage omitted]

A spokesman for the Christian Lebanese Forces on Monday said he had no knowledge of the woman but that the militia organization "was very interested in Ms. Rizqallah's statements."

According to the spokesman, the woman lived in Beirut's Christian southern suburb of 'Ayn al-Rummanah, had been married and divorced several times and had "suspicious relations." He did not specify what those relations were.

AL-SHIRA' on 'New' U.S.-Iranian Hostage Deal

NC2510085288 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 24 Oct 88 p 9

[Text] A new deal between the United States and Iran has been in the making for some time now. According to this deal, Iran will release the U.S. hostages held by its groups in Lebanon prior to the forthcoming U.S. elections so as to ensure that George Bush, the Republican candidate incumbent Vice President, is voted into office. In return for this, Bush will undertake to follow a new policy in the region that gives Iran the same pivotal role it used to play during the shah's reign, next only to Israel.

Under the same scenario, the United States in particular and the West in general will help Iran regain its military might so that it can go back to war as soon as possible and achieve victories on the battlefront. Such victories would reinstate the credibility of the Iranian Army, which then could play an important role in Iran's domestic political life at the expense of the other forces, particularly the Revolution Guards and the supporters of Shaykh Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri. This could pave the way for the rehabilitation of other national forces that do not consider America the Great Satan, but rather a superpower that Iran needs to deal with if it were to attain the place it aspires to in the region.

'Awn Rules Out Negotiations With Syria

NC2410122888 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn met today with a number of journalists and chief editors of information media establishments and spoke about the current situation. He said that he welcomes any Arab initiative to save Lebanon and stressed that there can be no solution as long as foreign forces remain in the country.

He also pointed out that there will be no negotiations with Syria over domestic Lebanese issues and that any negotiations with Syria must involve its withdrawal from Lebanon. He noted that the scenario portraying the war in Lebanon as inter-Lebanese is over.

'Arab Officials' Urge Syria To Change Policy

NC2410211488 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] The AKHBAR AL-YAWM AGENCY has reported that a number of Arab officials have advised the Syrian leadership to change its stand on Lebanon before it is too late. They have urged Syria, for one last time, to let the Arabs decide on what would strengthen Lebanon's stability and unity and restore its health and prosperity.

Shams al-Din on Al-Qadhdhafi Stand on Lebanon

NC2210132788 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Oct 88

[Text] Commenting on the stand announced by Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, Shaykh Muhammad Mhadi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Shi'ite Islamic Council, said: This regrettable stand has surprised us. It reveals in part the superficial thinking of some Arab officials and their short-sighted view of Arab and Islamic issues.

Shams al-Din concluded: We expect Libya to clearly correct its stand by supporting the legitimate government under Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and by backing the Lebanese people in their struggle to maintain their unity and liberate their territory from the Israeli occupation.

Abu Jamrah Praises Statement

NC2210182188 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 22 Oct 88

[Telephone interview with Deputy Prime Minister Colonel 'Isam Abu Jamrah by unidentified correspondent on 22 October—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Correspondent] Your Excellency, what is your view of Libyan leader Al-Qadhdhafi's stand on the Lebanese Government? Today, we heard that Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam suddenly arrived in Libya, and his visit was linked to the stand Al-Qadhdhafi expressed yesterday.

[Abu Jamrah] His stand is clear, frank, and [word indistinct]. In fact, what he said is logical and devoid of any ulterior motive. In any case, as we stated on the first day, what we have done is constitutional and legal. Our government is not acting against the law or Constitution. We said that when presidential elections are held, we will welcome the elected president. We will also welcome the government which he will form. There is no problem regarding this subject.

I believe the Libyan leader's stand is frank and clear and is similar to the stands taken by Arab countries such as Iraq, Abu Dhabi, and Egypt. [passage omitted]

Al-Husayni Receives UK Parliamentary Delegation

NC2410152388 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni received a British parliamentary delegation today. They discussed local issues and bilateral relations.

The British delegation arrived in Beirut from Damascus after talks with Syrian officials on the situation in the area and Syrian-British relations.

Robert Adley, head of the British delegation, said after the meeting: We are here on a visit to explore the current political situation in Lebanon. We came to meet with some Lebanese figures to discuss this situation. Replying to a question, Adley said: We did not broach the hostages issue at all.

Al-Jumayyil Discusses Future Plans, Situation

JN2410093088 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 22 Oct 88 pp 1, 30

[By 'Umar Sabahi]

[Excerpts] Former Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil has said that he will soon embark on an Arab tour in response to invitations he received while in office. He added that he is thinking of visting the UAE first and from there he will visit neighboring countries. The former Lebanese president disclosed for the first time that Lawyer Karim Paqraduni, deputy commander of the Lebanese Forces [LF], had given Mrs al-Jumayyil an ultimatum to leave Lebanon within 48 hours.

President Amin al-Jumayyil lives in a house he bought before he assumed the presidency, in Sinn al-Fil in an East Beirut suburb. It is guarded by armored forces from the Lebanese Army. He has maintained total silence since the bloodless coup carried out by LF Commander Samir Ja'ja' during which Ja'ja' stripped Al-Jumayyil of all his military strength in Al-Matn al-Shamali that was considered his political and military stronghold.

Al-Jumayyil says to visitors: "No press statements or interviews at the present time." But when he becomes reassured about the visitor he opens his heart and says: "The time for speaking will inevitably come."

President al-Jumayyil added: Today, my friends are being banned from travel and are forced to sign documents conceding private property. They say that Amin al-Jumayyil amassed a great fortune during his term. They are actually rendering me a great service because public opinion will discover through them that Amin al-Jumayyil did not amass any fortune and he only possesses what he inherited from his father. [passage omitted]

Al-Jumayyil added: Rumormongering was at its height. Every day there were rumors that I was about to leave the country. Some rumors said I was under house arrest and others said I would leave very soon. I dispelled these rumors by staying where I was and received the delegations that came to renew the pledge. They took arms from the people's houses but they cannot take me from their hearts.

Al-Jumayyil said: There was a plan to deport me from Lebanon. LF Deputy Commander Lawyer Karim Paqraduni tried to contact me by phone but I refused to take the call four times. When he failed to speak with me he called my wife and suggested to meet her at a place near my home. She met him without my knowledge in the presence of some friends. The surprise was that he gave her an ultimatum that I should leave the country within 48 hours otherwise the consequences would be disastrous. Karim Paqraduni did not forget to say that the events took place while he was away from Lebanon and that his advice was not to resist the ultimatum. My wife's response was that we are staying in our house even if its is pulled down over our heads. [passage omitted]

Birri Warns Against 'New Wave of Violence'

NC2210185788 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 Oct 88

[Text] Minister Nabih Birri today warned against a possible new wave of violence in Lebanon. He said that Iraq's support for the isolationists encourages the country's partition.

Speaking to REUTER and VISNEWS, Birri said the election of a new president will not occur before reforms are implemented that give the Muslims, who comprise the majority of Lebanon's population, a bigger share of political power than they now have. Minister Birri added that Lebanon is now facing a possible renewal of fighting. He added that he hopes a new wave of fighting will not break out because violence has proven to fail and because no party can emerge triumphant. He also said: However, I can guarantee nothing because the plot [not further specified] is big. He added: Lebanon is like an atom which causes a serious explosion if you divide it.

Commenting on the fact that Iraq has sent weapons to Lebanon in the past few months to strengthen the position of the Lebanese Forces, Birri said: By dispatching arms to the Lebanese Forces, Iraq is trying to transfer the Gulf war to the Lebanese arena. I believe that this will encourage the partitioning of Lebanon.

Referring to Iraq's support for the military government headed by General Michel 'Awn, Birri accused the Lebanese Forces of seeking to establish a Maronite Christian state, saying they obstructed the election of two presidential candidates in August and September on instructions from Israel and Iraq.

Minister Birri defended Syria's role in Lebanon saying it supports Lebanon's independence. He added: Lebanon has borders with the Arabs via Syria, as well as borders with the Israeli entity, and it has the sea. The Israelis are an enemy. Our relations with Arab countries must be established through Syria.

Amal Movement leader Birri added: It is a fact that a president of the Republic and a speaker of the Chamber of Deputies cannot be elected without first reaching an accord. He added: We divided Lebanon spiritually in 1943 and we have now divided it geographically. He also said: Lebanon is a bird with two wings. Nobody should believe that he can break one of the two wings.

Birri said the only way to end the current crisis, which threatens to divide Lebanon into statelets ruled by communities, is to unite the two rival Lebanese governments. He added: Many say that it is necessary to await the outcome of the Israeli and U.S. elections. Facts confirm this, but this is not everything. We ourselves must arrange the Lebanese house. Minister Birri continued: Our problem is that our windows are open for all.

7 Fatah Members Surrender to SLA After Clash

NC2410114588 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 1100 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] For the 2d day in a row, the South Lebanese Army [SLA] has dealt a hard blow to saboteurs who are desperately trying to harm the steadfastness of the security zone. This morning, a group of saboteurs surrendered to the SLA. According to initial reports, the seven-member group, which includes a girl, belongs to Fatah. The group infiltrated into Kafr Killa from Sidon at dawn today, entering a house on the outskirts of the town and taking a woman and five children hostage. The owner managed to notify the SLA and an SLA force immediately came to the scene. The force surrounded the house and stormed it after a brief clash in which machineguns and rockets were used. One of the saboteurs was injured, prompting the rest of the group to surrender to the SLA. Neither the SLA nor any of the family members suffered any casualties.

SLA Commander Staff Major General Antoine Lahd supervised the operation. Gen Yosi Peled, commander of the northern area in the Israeli army, and Gen Ze'ev Zakharin, commander of the Israeli liaison unit in the SLA, visited the scene. It has been learned that the subversive group's objective was to infiltrate a Galilee village and take civilian hostages for later exchange. They had hand grendades, personal arms, shells for light anti-tank weapons, and explosives.

Fatah Statement on Surrender

NC2410133088 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] A Fatah spokesman has issued a statement saying that the martyr Abu Jihad group was heading to the Misgav 'Am settlement to take military personnel as hostages and to demand that the Israeli enemy withdraw from our occupied land and recognize our legitimate right to establish our independent state.

According to the statement, the group of six men and a woman met with an Israeli patrol. A battle ensued. The strugglers took shelter in a house in Kafr Killa and continued to fight until they ran out of ammunition and were taken prisoner by the enemy forces. The statement warned the enemy against doing the captured strugglers any harm.

Israel Continues Military Action in Retaliation

Positions Raided in Al-Biqa'

NC2410122388 Paris AFP in English 1212 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] Rashayya, Lebanon, Oct 24 (AFP)—Israeli war planes on Monday attacked a military base held by Lebanon's Syrian Social Nationalist Party in the eastern Lebanese Al-Biqa' plain, correspondents reported.

There was no immediate account of casualties but many ambulances were seen rushing to the scene of the raid, carried out by two Phantom jets firing air-to-ground missiles.

The attack targeted a base located near the village of Bayt Lahya, 15 kilometers (eight miles) north of Israel's "security zone" in southern Lebanon and two kilometers from Syrian positions in the region, correspondents said.

Further on Raid

NC2410142888 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] Two Israeli enemy warplanes attacked a military base of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party [SSNP] in the town of Bayt Lahya in western Al-Biqa' this afternoon. Quoting eyewitnesses, REUTER says that the two aircraft fired four air-to-surface missiles at the base. Columns of smoke were seen rising from the base for 10 minutes. Later, an SSNP spokesman stated that the Israeli raid on the SSNP military base destroyed a building and wounded an SSNP member. Eyewitnesses stated that four houses in the attacked area were also hit.

Planes Reconnoiter Over Beirut

NC2410114088 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes reconnoitered the Lebanese skies, breaking the sound barrier over the capital and the mountain at 1235 today.

Troops on Border

NC2410123288 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] According to security reports, two Israeli concentrations estimated at the size of an armored brigade have been seen since last night on the Lebanese border in the Metulla area. Mechanized and infantry concentrations have also been seen on the road between Al-Qantarah and Al-Tayyibah.

1,500 Soldiers Deployed

NC2510085388 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] Foreign news agencies and reporters quote a security source in the South as saying the Israelis have amassed large military reinforcements in the border zone. Approximately 1,500 soldiers, as well as tanks, took up positions in the South Lebanese Army-controlled zone yesterday. The same reports indicate that military vehicles, including Merkava and Centurion tanks, as well as half-track vehicles, will be deployed along the central sector's combat lines. A number of these vehicles have headed for Taw'amat Niha and Qutrani and they have assembled near Jisr Dallafah.

3 Casualties in Clash

NC2410182088 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] A Palestinian resistance group and an Israeli force clashed near the village of Shab'a on the western slopes of Mount Hermon today. Helicopters participated in the 30-minute violent clashes. According to Lebanese security sources in Habsayya, three enemy soldiers were killed or wounded and two members of the group were captured.

Booby-Trapped Car Explodes in Al-Biqa'

NC2510121688 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] According to a Voice of Lebanon correspondent, a booby-trapped car exploded at the Barr Ilyas-Rashayya-Tariq al-Masna' intersection in Al-Biqa' at 1310 today. The Syrian forces have cordoned off the area.

According to preliminary reports, the explosion caused casualties as well as property damage.

Reportage on Talks Between YSP, Ba'th Party

Delegation Arrives 21 Oct

JN2110145288 Damascus Domestic Service 1415 GMT 21 Oct 88

[Text] The YSP delegation headed by Politburo Assistant Secretary General Salim Salih Muhammad arrived in Damascus this morning on an invitation from the national leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the party, was at the head of those receiving the delegation at Damascus International Airport.

Comrade Salim delivered a statement to the SANA correspondent in which he expressed his great joy over visiting our country on an invitation from Comrade al-Ahmar. He explained that this visit comes within the framework of mutual visits between the leaderships of the two parties in order to exchange expertise between the two parties, discuss new developments in the Arab and international arenas, and exchange viewpoints on the development of bilateral relations.

Discusses 'Arab Developments'

JN2210195888 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 Oct 88

[Text] A round of talks was held at the National Command Headquarters between an Arab Socialist Ba'th Party delegation headed by Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, party assistant secretary general, and a YSP delegation under Comrade Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general of the YSP's Central Committee. The sides exchanged views on Arab developments, noting the gravity of anti-Arab projects, especially with reference to the Arab-Zionist conflict, the Palestine question, and Lebanon. They also discussed party and state relations, voicing satisfaction with their progress.

Meanwhile, Comrade al-Ahmar outlined Syria's economic and political condition and its successes over the past few years led by comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad, party secretary general and president. He observed that Syria backs the unionist moves by both halves of Yemen. Unity between any two Arab countries, said Al-Ahmar, marks a step down the road of comprehensive unity and a boost to Arab strength.

For his part, Comrade Salih Muhammad explained developments in the PDRY and the YSP role in them. He voiced appreciation for Syria's anti-imperialist, anti-Zionist line, led by comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad. He noted Syria's pan-Arab tradition and pioneering role in confronting the aggression of Israel and the forces that seek to impose their domination on the region. The PDRY, he added, supports the Lebanese brothers in their drive to safeguard the integrity and Arab identity of their country. Syria, said Salih Muhammad, persistently holds out against the schemes seeking to hit the causes for which the Arabs struggle.

Meets With Al-Shar'

JN2310132488 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 Oct 88

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general of the YSP Political Bureau Central Committee, at noon. The meeting was attended by Mustafa 'Umran, head of the Arab Nation Department, and PDRY Ambassador in Damascus Muhammad 'Abduh Shatfah. Talks centered on the current Arab situation and bilateral relations.

Holds 2d Round of Talks

JN2310195688 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 23 Oct 88

[Text] The second round of talks between an Arab Socialist Ba'th Party delegation led by Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, Ba'th Party assistant secretary general, and a YSP delegation led by Comrade Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general of the YSP Central Committee Political Bureau, was held at the National Command building this evening.

The two sides completed the party and political talks that began yesterday evening. They also exchanged views on the most important issues in the Arab arena, particularly the situation in the Lebanese and Palestinian arenas, as well as developments in the Horn of Africa. The two sides approved measures for 1989 to implement the cooperation program signed by the two parties. They also agreed to continue consultations between leaders of the two parties and find joint working formulas for direct coordination on the overall issues raised and also for finding working formulas for the pan-Arab and progressive organizations and forces so they will achieve interaction and play their role in serving the interests of the Arab struggle.

They also discussed the basic tasks of the Arab liberation movement and how it can move to unify its ranks as well as methods of action to serve both its objectives and the goals of the Arab nation. The two sides expressed satisfaction with the fraternal relations between the two parties and countries as well as their development.

Dr Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, vice president of the Republic and deputy head of the National Progressive Front [NPF], received a YSP delegation led by Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general of the YSP Central Committee Political Bureau, this afternoon. The meeting was attended by Comrade Ahmad al-Hasan, reserve member of the National Command;

'Abd al-Ghani Qannut and Daniel Ni'mah, members of the NPF Central Command; and Muhammad 'Abduh Shatfah, PDRY ambassador in Damascus.

Talks dealt with the achievements realized in both fraternal countries. The two sides stressed the importance of and the need for enhancing bilateral relations in all fields in the interests of both peoples and the Arab nation. Talks also dealt with the situation in the Arab and international arenas as well as the hostile Zionist and imperialist schemes and ways to foil them. Salim Salih Muhammad voiced his great appreciation for the achievements realized in Syria under President Hafiz al-Asad.

Meets With Vice President

JN2410134488 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received at 1000 today Comrade Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general of the YSP Central Committee Political Bureau, and his delegation. They reviewed the Arab situation, its developments, and the latest developments in Lebanon.

Meets With Al-Asad

JN2410194588 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad this evening received Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general of the YSP Central Committee Political Bureau. Present at the meeting were Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; and Muhammad Shatfa, PDRY's ambassador in Damascus.

They discussed regional and Arab developments as well as bilateral cooperation in various spheres.

Austrian President Waldheim To Visit Syria 27 Oct

JN2210191188 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 Oct 88

[Text] In response to an invitation by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, Austrian President and Mrs Waldheim will begin a state and cordial visit to Syria on 27 October 1988.

TISHRIN Welcomes Visit

JN2410094488 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 24 Oct 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Waldheim—Unbiased Witness," TISHRIN says: Today, the world celebrates United Nations Day. This occasion coincides with President Hafiz al-Asad's invitation to Dr Kurt Waldheim and his wife to visit Syria. Waldheim was elected the UN secretary general for two terms and left clear imprints on the UN resolutions.

The United Nations has dealt with important issues related to the people's national liberation struggle to defend the national sovereignty of the independent states which faced open aggressions, plots, and violations of their rights by colonialism and Zionism. The United Nations has gained the respect of the world, except for Israel.

Israel is a bitter enemy of the United Nations that harbors hostility toward its former secretary general, Dr Waldheim—hostility which attracted world attention—particularly when he became president of Austria. Through this hostility, Israel reiterates its terrorist role with regard to the United Nations as an international organization interested in world security and peace and as a legitimate tool to achieve justice.

TISHRIN concludes: Syria welcomes its great guest as the president of Austria and former secretary general of the United Nations who recorded brilliant pages in the history of the United Nations.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Sends Message on UN Anniversary

LD2210194288 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] The 43d anniversary of the founding of the UN Organization was marked at a meeting today. A meeting was held by the Society of United Nations of the Republic of Afghanistan in cooperation with the faculty of law and political science of Kabul University in the university auditorium. A number of ministers, ambassadors of friendly countries, members of the diplomatic corps in Kabul, and the doyen of the diplomatic corps in Afghanistan took part.

At the beginning of the meeting a message from Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, addressed to the UN secretary general, was read by Dr Nematullah Pazhwak, a ministerial adviser:

Your Excellency:
On behalf of the Afghan people and myself, it is my pleasure to send you best wishes and congratulations on the occasion of the 43d anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, this common nucleus of the family of man. The role of the UN Organization in eliminating a variety of obstacles from mankind's search for well-being and tranquillity is praiseworthy. The Republic of Afghanistan has consistently supported and still supports the struggle of the United Nations for total disarmament and the elimination of regional tensions, poverty, disease, and hunger in various parts of the world where it is of concern.

We believe that the aims of the UN Charter, which still need to be comprehensively implemented, will be achieved under your wise guidance with the sincere cooperation of the member countries. The signing of the Geneva accords, which are indicative of the success of the United Nations in resolving disputes through peaceful means and dialogue and have prepared suitable conditions for resolving the situation around Afghanistan, is an example of the successes of the United Nation this year.

We firmly believe in Your Excellency's ability to influence other concerned UN members in cooperating and completely implementing these accords, which, by the way, were brought to a positive conclusion through your personal envoy, His Excellency Diego Cordovez.

In this regard, I assure you, Your Excellency, that the Republic of Afghanistan, in light of the aims of the national reconciliation policy which has been announced in this country, will make every effort to maintain nationwide peace. By providing conditions for dialogue and negotiations with the opposition and for the formation of a broadly based coalition in the country, Afghanistan is taking practical measures aimed at peace. Insofar as the Republic of Afghanistan is concerned, the Geneva accords will be observed and all necessary facilities for the safe and voluntary return of Afghan refugees to the country have been provided.

The Afghan people and government are grateful for the humanitarian efforts by Your Excellency and His Excellency Sadruoddin Agha Khan, the organizer of UN economic and humanitarian assistance for Afghanistan and the UNHCR. The results of the conference for material pledges by countries donating aid are optimistic.

As a senior member of the United Nation and an independent and nonaligned country, the Republic of Afghanistan renews its pledges on this auspicious day, 24 October, the anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, to the UN Charter and the complete observation of all its humanitarian principles and norms and the maintenance of peace and stability in the region and the world.
[Signed] Najibullah, President of Afghanistan

Rabbani Criticizes UN Official's Remarks

BK2410092788 Hong Kong AFP in English 0909 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 24 (AFP)—Afghan resistance leader Burhanuddin Rabbani has lashed out at Ecuadorian diplomat Diego Cordovez, accusing him of damaging the reputation of the United Nations.

In a strongly-worded letter to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Mr. Rabbani accused Mr. Cordovez of passing "inaccurate and inappropriate judgment" on the Afghan resistance parties.

"In his capacity as your personal representative on Afghanistan (Mr. Cordovez) was uttering unwarranted remarks," Mr. Rabbani, leader of the seven-party Afghan resistance alliance, told the U.N. secretary general.

In his letter, the text of which was made public by the alliance based in the Pakistani city of Peshawar, Mr. Rabbani urged Mr. Perez de Cuellar "to advise Mr. Cordovez to avoid making such statements in the future."

Mr. Cordovez, who as U.N. mediator hammered out the Geneva agreement under which Moscow is withdrawing its troops from Afghanistan, recently blamed the Afghan resistance for the stalemate in setting up a broad-based government in Afghanistan.

The Ecuadorian diplomat said the resistance was divided to the extent of being "paralysed," and he raised the possibility of including exiled King Zahir Shah in a solution to the Afghan conflict.

Mr. Cordovez told THE NEW YORK TIMES last week he had been disappointed by the Peshawar-based resistance parties and had invited the former monarch to play a role in Afghan politics.

In an interview with the British Broadcasting Corp., Mr. Cordovez reportedly encouraged three moderates in the seven-party alliance to revolt against Moslem fundamentalists who oppose the return of the 74-year-old king from exile in Rome.

"I have the impression that the moderates in Afghanistan, the moderate forces (outside), should step forward and take initiative, take leadership and organise something which would be acceptable to the Afghan people," he said in an account of the interview published by the Peshawar daily FRONTIER POST.

"We wonder how an experienced diplomat like Cordovez can say things that are far from diplomatic etiquette," said Mr. Rabbani. "These statements would not only damage his own reputation but will also be harmful to the U.N. prestige."

Mr. Rabbani said the Afghan people fully realize their responsibility at this crucial juncture in the country's history and stressed that "determination of our future is only the right of our people."

He also assured Mr. Perez de Cuellar "that a nation which could force a superpower out of its land can certainly establish a strong government after liberation."

The Afghan resistance rejected over the weekend an offer by Soviet-backed Afghan President Najibullah to hold talks in the Moslem holy city of Mecca, Saudi Arabia, on forming a coalition government in Kabul.

105th Memorandum Presented to UN Mission

LD2410181588 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] The Foreign Ministry's coordination office with UNGOMAP reports that this afternoon the 105th memorandum of the Republic of Afghanistan regarding five violations by Pakistan of the provisions of the Geneva accords was handed in to the UN Good Office Mission in Kabul.

The memorandum gives complete information about the nature of the violations and requests that the delegation assess these violations in accordance with Article 7, Document 4 of the Geneva accords and to inform the Republic of Afghanistan and the special envoy of the UN secretary general of its results.

Rebel-Controlled Areas Face Food, Health Problems

BK2310154088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1519 GMT 23 Oct 88

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 23 (AFP)—Lack of medical assistance and acute food shortages are affecting people in Qandahar Province areas that have been taken over by mujahidin rebels, resistance sources said Sunday.

"Cholera and other serious diseases were threatening the lives of many people" in the southern Afghan province where fighting has continued for several months, an Afghan doctor speaking in Quetta was quoted by resistance sources as saying.

Muhammad Zaman, who is associated with international medical teams operating in the province, told the rebel-run Afghan media centre in Quetta that 350 people had registered for treatment in his clinic in Qandahar's Arghandab District.

Dr. Zaman said 30 people had died of wounds and that 20 had been transported to Pakistan for treatment, the rebels said. Dr. Zaman said he was still attending to about 120 people in his clinic. Many of the war wounded died on the way to Pakistan because of a shortage of vehicles, he added.

"With the exception of Qandahar city, mujahidin now control all the villages and towns in the province," he said, according to resistance sources. He said that as the war intensified supplies of food and medicine became smaller.

Similar reports were received from the eastern garrison city of Jalalabad, which is also threatened by mujahidin fighters, resistance sources said.

Dr. Zaman said there was a need for an artificial limb centre in Quetta for those Afghans who could not pay for the trip to the International Committee of the Red Cross paraplegic centre in the northwestern Peshawar city.

Rebels Capture Capital of Kapisa Province

BK2401104080 Hong Kong AFP in English 1024 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 24 (AFP)—Afghan resistance guerrillas have captured a major provincial capital close to Kabul after fierce fighting that left about 100 government troops dead, mujahidin rebel sources said Monday [24 October].

The rebels captured Mahmud-e Raqi, some 50 kilometres (30 miles) north of Kabul, on Sunday, said the sources in the northwest Pakistan city of Peshawar.

The Kapisa Province capital is strategically located south of the Panjsher Valley, where some 10,000 mujahidin guerrillas are based under moderate fundamentalist commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, and is close to the crucial Salang highway that links Kabul to the border with the Soviet Union.

The mujahidin sources said 100 Afghan troops were killed and 83 taken prisoner in fierce fighting following a rebel bombardment of the garrison town.

The pro-resistance AFGHAN PRESS AGENCY said Monday that the mujahidin had destroyed 21 tanks and 13 trucks and seized large stocks of weapons, food and clothing.

It was the sixth provincial capital to have reportedly fallen to the mujahidin within the past two months.

They also claim to have won control of Taleqan in Takhar Province, Asadabad in Konarha and Bamian in the province of the same name—all in northern Afghanistan—as well as Sharan in eastern Paktika Province and Chaghcharan, the capital of central Ghowr Province.

Radio Kabul, in a dispatch montored here, said last week that Afghan troops had pulled out of Qal'eh-ye Now, the capital of northwestern Badghis Province. The mujahidin have made no comment on this report.

Mujahidin Reportedly Surround Qandahar Airport

BK2410133788 Hong Kong AFP in English 1326 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Quetta, Pakistan, Oct 24 (AFP)—Afghan rebel sources said here Monday that mujahidan guerrillas had encircled and shelled the airport at Qandahar, the vital supply link for Afghanistan's besieged second city. They are now planning a major offensive to capture the airport, the sources said.

The sources said the guerrillas had shelled the airport Saturday, destroying a helicopter, a jet bomber and a transport plane, after government reinforcements were brought in from Kabul.

The rebels had shelled the airport from its western side, causing heavy damage to installations, and several explosions were heard, indicating that ammunition dumps were destroyed, the sources said.

No casualty figures were immediately known, the sources said, adding that Afghan planes were bombing the mujahidin positions.

The mujahidin have also taken positions southeast of the airport in the Taj Muhammad Karez area seven kilometres (four miles) away, after capturing the Torkotal security post on Friday.

A resistance source said 1,000 Afghan troops from Kabul were sent to Qandahar Thursday.

The rebel AFGHAN PRESS AGENCY said the mujahidin cut the road to Qandahar city early Friday. The aiport was "in complete siege" and the guerrillas were firing rockets at it, the agency said.

Resistance sources in Islamabad said traffic between Kabul and Jalalabad was suspended following a mujahidin attack Sunday in which the guerrillas have captured ten security posts. Three mujahidin were killed and 12 wounded in the fighting, the sources said, adding that casualties on the other side were not known. [passage omitted]

Armed Forces Confiscate 12 Missiles Near Paghman

LD2410001288 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 23 Oct 88

[Text] As a result of the Armed Forces' mopping-up operations, 12 surface-to-surface missiles were confiscated on the outskirts of Paghman, Kabul Province, and Muhammad Agha, Lowgar Province.

BAKHTAR's military section reports that five missiles were confiscated in Arghandeh, Paghman District and that seven missiles were discovered in Muhammad Agha District. The armed extremists were preparing to use the missiles on residential areas.

'Extremists' Fire Missiles at Kabul City

LD2410170488 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] The armed extremists backed by Pakistan and the United States fired 14 missiles at Wards 5, 8, 9, and 10 of Kabul this afternoon. One of the missiles hit Sayd Anwar's house in (Deh Khodaydad), martyring his 3-year-old child and causing damage.

Another missile hit a road in (Rahman Mena), martyring 8-year-old Ed Muhammad and injuring a 5-year-old and 2-year-old. A missile hit the region of [word indistinct] in Ward 5, martyring 60-year-old Muhammad Nader. The report adds that another 11 missiles, which hit the regions of (Shena), (Golbota), and [placename indistinct] in Ward 10, injured one person and caused damage.

Rebels 'Crushed' in Herat, Qandahar, Paktia

LD2310233588 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 23 Oct 88

[Text] A group of the extremist criminal elements which nested in the vicinity of Shindand District, Herat Province, was crushed 21 October by the Armed Forces. As a result of this operation 30 extremists were crushed including Arbab Hashem, ringleader of the group, and 40 of them were injured. Also a ringleader of the warmongers, [name indistinct], was arrested in the course of this operation. Fifteen light weapons, a rocket launcher, and 25 boxes of various types of shells were seized.

According to another report, as a result of activities by the Armed Forces in the areas around Qandahar Province yesterday, 3 warmongers were crushed and another 17 injured. Two enemy mortars, a DShK, and a rocket launcher were destroyed, and five hideouts of the extremists elements were destroyed.

As a result of Armed Forces operations in Paktia Province today, a ringleader of the Etahad band, Daud, together with another 6 persons were injured and 21 of them were crushed. The BIA military correspondent reports that in the course of this operation, a rocket launcher and a 85mm gun were destroyed.

Rebels 'Crushed' in Paktia, Faryab Provinces

LD2410172888 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] The Armed Forces of the country crushed 58 armed extremists backed by Pakistan and the United States and injured 86 of them during the past 2 days in Faryab and Paktia Provinces.

In the course of mopping-up operations in Paktia Province, 28 warmongers were killed and 116 injured. Two enemy guns, two rocket launchers, a rocket system, and a mortar were destroyed.

As a result of mopping-up operations by the Armed Forces in Qaysar District Faryab Province, 30 were crushed and 70 injured, and their arms and ammunition were destroyed.

Kabul Details Fighting Among Rebels in Samangan

LD2410175188 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] As a result of clashes between the Harakat-e, Gulbuddin, and Jamiyat-e extremist groups over the distribution of goods stolen from the people in the Samangan, Faryab, and Kabul Provinces, 24 extremist criminals were killed and 26 others were injured between 10-18 October.

According to the BAKHTAR military correspondent, armed clashes took place between the Harakat-e and Gulbuddin extremist groups in the vicinity of (Roh-e Doab) District [in Samangan] on 16 October. Nine persons were killed and 16 others were badly injured.

As a result of a clash in Pashtun Kowt District on 18 October between extemist groups, 6 were killed including a ringleader, Amanullah, and 10 were injured.

As a result of clashes between extremists in the village of Zani, Shakar Darreh District on 18 October, nine persons were killed.

India

Security Forces on Burmese Border 'on Alert'

BK2410140888 Hong Kong AFP in English 1132 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 24 (AFP)—Indian forces on the border with Burma have been put on alert, a Defence Ministry spokesman confirmed here Monday [24 October] amid reports of an unprecedented troop build-up on the Burmese side of the frontier.

"Our troops have been asked to be extra vigilant," the spokesman said, but discounted a report in THE HINDU newspaper which said Indian forces had been put on a state of "war-preparedness."

"They (troops) have been vigilant in the sector in recent days and all we have done now is to make them extra vigilant," said the spokesman. "There is nothing like war-preparedness, I don't know where they (THE HINDU) got the phrase from," he added. He said he could not confirm reports of a Burmese military build-up.

THE HINDU reported Monday that Indian security forces in the tiny frontier town of Moreh had been put on maximum alert following an unprecedented troop build-up on the Burmese side of the border.

"The Army, police and paramilitary forces have been put on a red alert and war-preparedness as Burma has deployed a large number of troops on its territory near Moreh," in India's northeastern frontier state of Manipur, THE HINDU said, without specifying the number of security forces involved.

The daily said: "The unprecedented (Burmese) troops deployment assumes ominous significance in the light of the fact that 52 Burmese student activists and their associates who fled their country are taking shelter in Moreh."

The refugees had fled a law-and-order crackdown by Rangoon's military regime since a September 19 coup. The Indian Government has said it would not turn them back.

THE HINDU said some Burmese intruded into Moreh three days ago and stoned police barracks where the refugees have been housed. Four days ago, Burmese immigration officials came to Moreh and demanded that the refugees be handed over but were refused, the newspaper said. It added: "It is feared that the Burmese Army may intrude into India in plainclothes and kill these students if attempts to whisk them away fail."

Indian officials have ordered the refugees shifted to an unused army building in Moreh to ensure better protection and at the same time are investigating the refugees' identities, the newspaper said.

Officials believe some of them could be plants by Burmese insurgent groups, it added.

On Saturday, Manipur State Home Minister Iregbam Tompok visited the refugees and reiterated assurances that they were welcome to stay in India as long as they wanted.

The refugees do not want to go back home "until and unless" a democratic government takes power in Rangoon, THE HINDU said.

Angolan President Arrives for 3-Day Visit

BK2410092388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] The Angolan president, Mr Jose Eduardo dos Santos, arrived in New Delhi today on a 3-day visit to the country. He was received at the airport by the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. Speaking to newsmen, the Angolan president said the present visit is intended to strengthen ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. He said he will discuss with Indian leaders several issues of political nature, including the situation in Southern Africa.

The AIR correspondent says that a close neighbor of South Africa, Angola, is deeply involved in the turmoil in that region. It has been actively supporting the struggle of the Namibian people against the Pretoria regime. All these issues are likely to be discussed during Mr Santos' talks in New Delhi.

During his stay in the capital the visiting dignitary will have official talks with the prime minister. He will also meet the president and the external affairs minister. Mr Santos is on his way back to his country from China.

Gandhi Dismisses Rumors of 'Snap' Election

BK2510033888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has said that the question of the lowering of voting age to 18 years will be decided after a public debate and discussions with the opposition and in parliament. He was speaking to newsmen at Tiruchirapalli Airport last night at the beginning of his 4-day visit to Tamil Nadu.

Mr Gandhi dismissed all rumors about a snap mid-term poll to parliament. He also said that PKF [Peacekeeping Force] will stay in Sri Lanka as long as it is required.

USSR Offers To Update MiG-21 Aircraft

BK2410105588 Delhi PATRIOT in English 12 Oct 88 p 5

[Text] The Soviet Union has offered to update the MiG-21 aircraft with new wings and sophisticated avionics to give it the capability of the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), reports UNI [UNITED NEWS OF INDIA].

The update of the MiG-21 with a newer engine would also cost the Indian Air Force [IAF] rupees five crore per aircraft whereas the cost of the LCA at today's prices would to about rupees 35 crore apiece.

The Soviets have suggested that the IAF could update some squadrons of MiG-21s while the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) could produce additional number of such aircraft without dislocating the production of the MiG-27 now in full swing.

Defence experts point out that when the Chinese and Pakistanis could upgrade their fleet of old fighter aircraft installing American engines and Western avionics, why should India not do the same.

This could be a very cost-effective solution to meet the requirements of the IAF without spending any foreign exchange and producing a modern combat aircraft eight times cheaper than the existing ones.

The MiG-21s could be updated in various phases. One proposal is to provide combat flaps and increase the fuel capacity of the MiGs.

The performance of the MiGs could be improved by 30 to 40 percent by changing the wings, installing new avionics, replacing the engine with a more powerful one and fitting them with multi-mode radar and the latest headup display in the cockpit.

The HAL experts say that the Soviets have informed the Indian side that they have tested a new type of wing for the MiGs in the wind tunnels and they are ready to offer it in numbers.

The Soviets have also discussed with the experts of the HAL the possibilities of producing the new MiGs. They have pointed out that jigs and fixtures used in the production of MiG-21s would remain the same. By spending in all about rupees 100 crore, India could have an LCA of world class.

The capacities of the HAL are tapering off the stoppage of the production of Kiran jet trainer aircraft. Experts say optimum use of the capacities of HAL's Bangalore and Nasik divisions could be made without any risk, HAL engineers say.

The Soviets have already made very detailed studies of the compatibility of the new jet engine which has a better thrust to weight radio with the old versions of MiGs.

One proposal is the the Hindustan Aeronautics should be given the new wing and airframe of the MiG-21 and ask the experts to fit the American GE 404 jet engines into it.

According to indications the HAL has already received more than 10 GE 404 jet engines under an agreement signed with the United States.

The GE 404 jet engine which fits the F-16, would give the MiGs very high degree of manoeuvrability and better radius of action. The American jet engine is smaller and lighter than the engines of the MiGs and could be easily, installed into the MiGs without changing the planes configuration.

Meeting With USSR Endorses Peace, Disarmament

BK2210035588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Oct 88

[Text] India and the Soviet Union have underlined the need to secure wider support for a world free of nuclear weapons and to principles of nonviolence. In a joint statement issued at the end of the conference on India-USSR friendship and cooperation in New Delhi yesterday, the two sides welcomed the efforts of the two governments toward realization of the humanist ideals laid down in the Delhi Declaration. The participants recommended adoption of a long term approach to all forms of bilateral cooperation.

In his valedictory address, the external affairs minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, suggested the setting up of a joint India-Soviet study group to stimulate new ideas to further develop our relations.

'High-Level' Soviet Trade Delegation Arrives

BK2410181488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] A high-level Soviet delegation arrived in New Delhi today for discussions on the annual trade plan for 1989. The deputy minister for foreign economic relations, Mr Mordvinov, is leading the Soviet side, while the secretary in the Commerce Ministry, Mr A.N. Verma, will be heading the Indian delegation.

Officials of two sides held working-level discussions, while the secretary-level talks are slated for tomorrow. The trade protocol for 1989 is expected to be signed at the conclusion of the trade talks.

Commentary Previews Gorbachev Visit, Cooperation

BK2410122588 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Commentary by T.V. Venkatachalam entitled "Indo-Soviet High-Tech Cooperation"]

[Text] The forthcoming visit of the Soviet president, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, to New Delhi is expected to enhance the high-tech cooperation with India with agreements on space science and other fields. In the frontier areas of science and technology alone during the period 1984-1987, joint research was conducted by scientists and specialists of the two countries in 22 applied and fundamental fields. Sixty-six Soviet and 48 Indian institutions were involved in this research which covered 112 fields.

During his visit to the Soviet Union last year to inaugurate the Festival of India, Mr Gandhi, the prime minister, signed with the Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachev, a 12-year science and technology cooperation agreement. It was one of the most extensive agreements ever signed by either country. The agreement covers three main areas—cooperation on the thrust sector of the frontiers of science and technology and the basic research and cooperation in other fields.

The priority areas selected for concentrated efforts were biotechnology and immunology, materials technology, laser and space technology, hardware, high capacity electron accelerators, ground water exploration, computers and electronics, and catalysis. Joint research in such fields as the earth's crust, the Indian Ocean seabed, climatology and gamma rays is also to be carried out under the agreement.

The joint research and study are being coordinated under the direction of Mr C.N.R. Rao, chief scientific adviser to the prime minister, on the Indian side, and Academician Guriy Marchuk from the Soviet side. A distinguished scientist and administrator, Mr Marchuk is the deputy prime minister and president of the Soviet Academy of Sciences. He has visited India last year when some of the programs in science and research and development were worked out.

Last year India and the Soviet Union signed a protocol for the supply to India of the Soviet super computer. The agreement provided also for cooperation in the manufacture of consumer electronics, ground radio navigation and airport system, optical fiber systems and TV and radio broadcasting equipment.

One of the subjects discussed in detail by the Indo-USSR friendship and cooperation conference, which began on 18 October in New Delhi, was the question of greater Indo-Soviet collaboration in the areas of science and technology, medicine and health service, use of laser technology and cosmic ray research. The conference marked the closing stages of the Soviet Festival of India and was attended by 30 well-known Soviet scientists and social activists. The conference discussed the theoretical basis of the cooperation which will be translated into programs in the field.

The proposed Indo-Soviet agreement on space science is expected to include a specific project for the launching of the next Indian remote sensing satellite. India's first remote sensing satellite, IRS-IA, was also launched from the Soviet Union and it has been functioning satisfactorily.

According to Mr Aleksandr I. Kunayev, chairman of the Soviet Space Research Organization—Glavkosmos—cooperation between the two countries in space sciences is on the rise. One of the possibilities being considered is for joint cooperation in the use of the Soviet space station, Mir. Another project is the development of side looking reader, SLR , a sophisticated remote sensing equipment capable of looking through the clouds.

The various aspects of the earlier Soviet offer to build an international space center in India are being examined. In the effort to modernize agriculture, India is deeply interested in meteorology, particularly the study of the monsoons and the climate and underwater development. Laser technology and remote sensing are particularly important in this field.

The high-technological cooperation would also help the modernization of industry. Several Indo-Soviet seminars have been held, for instance, to foster collaboration in metallurgy research. The mutually advantageous high-tech cooperation between the two countries supplement the vast cooperation efforts in field of trade, economic relations, culture, and defense. All these lead to India's self-reliance and technological progress.

Violent Incidents Continue in Punjab State

Strike Protests Leader's Death

BK2210162288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Oct 88

[Excerpts] In Punjab, 11 persons, including a veteran trade union leader, Mr Nakhtar Singh Dhaliwal, have been shot dead since last night. Mr Dhaliwal was killed by terrorists at his native village Badnikhurd near Moga.

The Punjab Roadways and Road Transport Corporation employees observed a hartal [strike] today in protest against the killing. The trade union council also held a big protest rally in Moga. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the security forces have arrested seven terrorists and recovered huge quantity of arms and ammunition from their possession. While six of them were arrested from Kapurthala District, one was arrested in Ludhiana District.

24 'Terrorists' Seized

BK2310034888 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 22 Oct 88

[Text] In a major action, the security forces nabbed 24 terrorists in Punjab and killed three in separate encounters.

A self-styled area commander of the so-called Khalistan Liberation Force, Paranjit Singh alias Sodhi, and Balbir Singh were killed in an encounter near village Manjupura in Amritsar District last night. They were involved in about 50 killings and bomb blasts, including the killing of eight migrant laborers at village Jathewal. A .32 revolver and a .12 bore gun and a crude bomb were recovered from the scooter they were riding.

In another fierce encounter near Panjwar village in the same district, one terrorist was killed. Some arms and ammunition, including one AK-47 rifle, was recovered from the site of the encounter.

Thirteen hardcore terrorists and seven harborers were arrested during massive combing operation carried out by the CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] and the Punjab police in the Tarn Taran and Majitha police district, following the abortive attempt on the life of the CRPF additional DIG [Deputy Inspector General] on Thursday [20 October].

Eight terrorists were arrested near Majitha town last night after the truck in which they were traveling was intercepted by the security forces.

The Tarn Taran police arrested five terrorists belonging to the so-called Khalistan Liberation Force, who were involved in the killing of 19 people besides extorting over 2 lakh rupees. The security forces nabbed five terrorists in Khem Karan after a brief exchange of fire early this morning.

The Kapurthala police arrested another six terrorists and recovered some arms and ammunition from their possession.

Eleven persons were killed in various incidents since last night. Ten persons were shot dead outside Basti Utewali in Ferozepore District last night. Terrorists armed with AK-47 assault rifles sprayed automatic gunfire on people on the bank of the Ferozepore feeder canal, killing all of them on the spot. According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh, the victims belong to the weaker sections of society.

Terrorists also gunned down a veteran trade union leader Mr Nakhtar Singh Dhaliwal at his native village Badnikhurd near Moga. Mr Dhaliwal was the president of the Punjab National Motor Transport Union and vice president of the state union of AITUC [All India Trade Union Congress]. The Punjab roadways and road transport employees went on a strike all over the state in protest against the killing.

According to a message received a short while ago from the home secretary, Punjab, the killings in Basti Utewali in Ferozepore District last night could be the result of inter-gang rivalry and not necessarily a terrorist act. The matter is being investigated.

21 'Terrorists' Arrested

BK2310160888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Oct 88

[Text] In Punjab, 21 terrorists were arrested in concerted raids at different places. In Amritsar District, 15 terrorists were nabbed by the security forces. Our Chandigarh correspondent reports that a large quantity of arms and ammunition was also recovered. Six hardcore terrorists were arrested from Majitha and Tarn Taran.

Elsewhere in the state, terrorists shot dead an assistant subinspector of police in Hoshiarpur District and two farmers in Gurdaspur and Amritsar Districts.

12 'Terrorists' Captured

BK2410161188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] In Punjab, 12 terrorists and their harborers have been arrested and one hardcore terrorist killed in intensive combing and search operations since last evening. In Faridkot District, three hardcore terrorists and four of their harborers were arrested.

According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh two of the accomplices, however, managed to escape. He said this gang of terrorists was responsible for a number of murders and bomb blast in the state and outside. A large quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered from them.

Two terrorists were arrested from Patiala District, and one each from Ludhiana, Ropar and Kapurthala Districts. A hardcore terrorist, Amarjit Singh, alias Toni, was killed in an encounter with the security forces in Kapurthala District this morning. He was involved in number of killings in Kapurthala and Hoshiarpur Districts.

The spokesman said security forces are conducting raids all over the state to nab terrorists and their harborers.

10 Killed in Tanda

BK2510032088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] In Punjab, terrorists gunned down 10 persons and seriously injured 8 in Tanda town of Hoshiarpur District yesterday evening. According to an official spokesman, three terrorists armed with automatic weapons, struck at the crowded market in Ayapur locality. Security forces immediately began massive combing operations in the area. All the three terrorists have since been identified and their suspected hideouts are being raided to apprehend them. The injured have been admitted in Hoshiarpur and Jullundur hospitals.

Meanwhile, an assistant subinspector of police was injured when two scooter-borne terrorists opened fire in Santurgarh area of Bhatinda District last night. The police officer, heading a naka [patrol] party, had signaled the terrorists to stop for routine checking.

Iran

Official Refused U.S. Entry for UN Meeting

LD2410164488 Tehran IRNA in English 1612 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 24, IRNA—The senior Iranian representative at the Geneva Arms Control Conference who was to present a report to the U.N. in New York was refused entry by the U.S. Administration.

Dr 'Ali Shams Ardakani returned to Tehran from Geneva Monday after waiting several days for a U.S. visa which is suppose to be a routine function for diplomats attending U.N. meetings.

"We have no desire to go to America but the United Nations' Headquarters is in New York and we have to go there," he said. Ardakani was due to present a 300-page report on various arms control issues, including imposing strict bans on the production and use of chemical weapons.

The Iranian diplomat said the Americans had claimed that he was a threat to American security, a term used before to stop his entry into the U.S.

"The claim by a senior (U.S.) Government officials that I am a threat to American security is nothing but an excuse and it has no validity from the point of international law."

The emphasis on a ban on chemical arms in the report may have put some groups or even the U.S. Government itself in a "defensive position" he said.

"It is not at all imposible that the chemical weapons used in the imposed war and in the innocent land of Iraqi Kurdistan were sanctioned and supplied by America and the Soviet Union," he added.

Velayati Interviewed on Peace Talks, Afghanistan

LD2410153388 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 23 Oct 88

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati by unidentified correspondent; Velayati remarks in Persian with superimposed English translation; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Unidentified correspondent] Our reporter had an interview with Iran's Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati on a variety of issues including the Geneva talks between Iran and Iraq, 1975 Algiers treaty, the Arvand River [Shatt al-'Arab], and the situation in Afghanistan. We asked: The most important newsy issue in the world mass media at present relates to the future trend of the Iran-Iraq peace talks. In your opinion, on what reasons were these negotiations halted and [does] there exist any grounds for speeding up the parleys in Geneva?

[Velayati] After the halt in the process of tripartite negotiations among Iran, Iraq, and the United Nations under the supervision of the UN secretary general, there exists no reason other than obstructionism by Iraq in the negotiation process. If we set up the developments [that have] taken place so far, we can state them as follows: Iran has extended necessary cooperation to the United Nations in all spheres, duly shown in words and deeds, full readiness for rational, proper, and speedy enforcement of UN Security Council Resolution 598. On the contrary, Iraq has done nothing except obstructionism and seeking excuses.

[Correspondent] The other question was: The Iraqi regime has recently announced its readiness for exchanging the POW's. In your opinion, what is the reason for such a posturing on the part of Iraq? What has been the Islamic Republic's response to that request.

[Velayati] Had Iraq shown its good faith in this regard, we would have been pleased by it. However, this move comes only to do away with, or to reduce the pressure being tolerated by the Iraqi Government from its people. Exchange of prisoners of war forms only part of Resolution 598, and it has been stipulated in the resolution's third clause.

The Iraqi regime, after having separated this issue, wants to hold talks on it, whereas it has, in practice, not given any response on the subject. If that regime had any good faith, it could have responded to us, even though symbolically. Moreover, numerous and repeated proposals of the UN secretary-general and the UN Security Council aimed at a speedy and proper implementation of the resolution have been rejected by the Iraqi officials. They also create obstruction in the way of its enforcement. Had the Iraqis acted seriously and properly, there would by now have been exchanged 50 percent of the POW's, as commented by the speaker of Iran's Islamic Consultative Assembly and the acting Armed Forces commander in chief.

At any rate, we are fully prepared for exchange of prisoners of war within the framework of Resolution 598 and have duly notified our readiness both to the UN secretary general and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

[Correspondent] Our reporter then asked before the acceptance of Resolution 598 by the Islamic Republic the Iraqi regime and its supporters, while claiming to be pacifists, sought unconditional enforcement of that resolution. However, today despite Iran's acceptance of that resolution, the Iraqi regime is refusing to agree to the same enforcement. In your opinion what are the main reasons behind such a policy?

[Velayati] Iraq's approach has, in practice, proved to the world the same thing which we have been saying throughout the past 8 years, that Iraq does not genuinely seek peace and it has only been feigning the acceptance of Resolution 598. Now that Iran has announced its full readiness for cooperation with the UN secretary general for the enforcement of the resolution, the Iraqis are creating obstacles in its way. Main reason for such an obstructionism by Iraq is that Baghdad regime does not really seek peace.

[Correspondent] The next question posed to the foreign minister was: Iran on numerous ocassions has announced that it relies on the 1975 Algiers treaty in relation to border issues, while the Iraqi regime contrary to it, seeks a revision in that treaty. In your view, what are the legal and international bases of Iran's posture in respect of the 1975 Algiers treaty?

[Velayati] Our postures are quite explicit, for they are consistent with international criteria. Border treaties which are concluded between any two countries, which duly complete their legal formalities, become final and irrevocable; they cannot be annulled unilaterally. This issue in particular, has become explicit after ratification of 1969 Laws of Treaties Convention in Vienna, and it is based fully on the provisions of international law. In case of conclusion of a treaty, it becomes valid due to this very reason; we consider as illegal and without any standing the annullment of the 1975 Algiers accord by Iraq. That accord continues to govern the coastal and ground frontiers between the two countries, and it would continue to do in future.

[Correspondent] Our fifth question went as such: With regard to Arvand River and the legal issues pertaining to the Strait of Hormuz, there is much to discuss. What are the substantiating reasons of the Islamic Republic of Iran from the viewpoint of the international law, in adopting political postures in the peace negotiations?

[Velayati] In the case of Arvand River, we do not have any particular opinion except what has been stipulated in the 1975 Algiers accord. Same is the case with the Strait of Hormuz. What we believe with regard to the Strait of Hormuz, the Persian Gulf, and the coastal waters of our country along its southern region is based exactly upon the criteria of the international law and nothing more or less. We solely seek freedom of navigation in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz as stipulated in the international law and nothing else.

[Correspondent] We asked: What do you anticipate with regard to the future of the Iran-Iraq talks and the big powers' postures?

[Velayati] We think that our negotiations would progress in [the] event the UN Security Council extends decisive and speedy support to the UN secretary general and his activities.

[Correspondent] And finally, this question was posed. The situation in Afghanistan continues to be chaotic. In your opionion is there any chance of settling the issue of Afghanistan within the framework of Geneva agreements?

[Velayati] To the extent the Geneva accord provides ground with the withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan, we view them as positive, but events of the past 6 months have shown that the Geneva accord is not complete as such. You duly observe that the fate of

Afghanistan continues to remain ambiguous. Till such time when the people of Afghanistan and Afghan mujahidin in their capacity as the real owners of that land do not have an active and serious participation in forming their own destiny and in determining their future government, the problems of Afghanistan would continue to remain there.

In addition, we must point out that no foreign intervention should be allowed to take place concerning Afghanistan's future. The Soviet troops should conditionally withdraw from there and no other foreign power interfere in that country's affairs, thus leaving the people of Afghanistan to take of themselves.

Hungarian Premier Arrives 25 Oct for 3-Day Visit

LD2510115088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] Karoly Grosz, the Hungarian premier, arrived in Tehran this morning for an official 3-day visit, accompanied with a team of the officials of that country. He was welcomed by Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi and a team representing the Islamic Republic of Iran Government and the foreign ambassadors residing in Tehran.

In the welcoming reception, the prime ministers of both countries made some remarks about the bilateral relations of the two countries. The Central News Unit reports: The 20-member team accompanying the Hungarian Prime Minister includes the industry minister and deputies for foreign and trade ministries, and also several of the directors of industrial Hungarian firms.

PRC Light Industry Minister Visits Tehran

Meets Agriculture Minister

LD2210153688 Tehran IRNA in English 1142 GMT 22 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 22, IRNA—Visiting Chinese Minister of Light Industries Zeng Xianlin Saturday conferred with Minister of Agriculture 'Isa Kalantari. Talks were held at the meeting on issues of mutual interest as well as Beijing-Tehran agricultural and economic cooperation. The Chinese minister arrived here Monday at the head of a delegation.

Sees Construction Jihad Minister

LD2210180088 Tehran IRNA in English 1620 GMT 22 Oct 88

[Text) Tehran, Oct. 22, IRNA—Ways of expanding Iran-China industrial ties was the topic of discussion between Jihad Minister Gholamreza Foruzesh and Chinese Minister of Light Industries Zeng Xianlin during their meeting here today. The two sides also announced their readiness to continue mutual cooperation in projects relating to fisheries, rural industries and hydroelectric power generation. The Chinese minister arrived here on 17 October.

Confers With Velayati

LD2410052188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Oct 88

[Text] Mr Zeng Xianlin, PRC minister of light industry, met and conferred this evening with Foreign Minister Velayati. During the meeting, the Chinese minister of light industry expressed his satisfaction with the Chinese delegation's visit to Iran and welcomed the growing development in relations between the PRC and Iran.

During the meeting, Mr Velayati stressed the expanding relations between the two countries, the progress of the peace talks, and the need for the full implementation of UN Resolution No 598, as well as cooperation with the UN secretary general. He also noted Iraq's obstructionist attitude toward the implementation of that resolution. The foreign minister expressed appreciation and gratitude for China's cooperation in various international matters, particularly in the Security Council. He expressed the hope that China will continue its efforts at the Security Council in supporting the secretary general for the implementation of the resolution.

Concludes Visit, Departs

NC2410082588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that Mr Zeng Xianlin, PRC minister of light industry and head of an economic delegation to Tehran, left Tehran yesterday afternoon and was seen off by Minister of Industries Mr Shafe'i.

During his stay in Tehran, the PRC light industry minister met with the prime minister and with the ministers of foreign affairs, agriculture, industries, construction jihad, and energy. He also held talks on economic, industrial, and technological cooperation and on future cooperation between the two countries. He inspected various factories and learned about Iran's technological ability and the successes scored by Iran's industries.

Before leaving Tehran, Mr Zeng Xianlin stated in an interview: Generally speaking, Iran enjoys a high standard of industrial technology, factory management, and equipment.

French Ambassador Confers With Velayati

LD2410090988 Tehran IRNA in English 1920 GMT 23 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 23, IRNA—French Ambassador Christian Graeff today conferred with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on mutual ties and ways of improving them. International issues, and the trend of Iran-Iraq peace talks also figured in during the discussions.

Velayati stressed that the only way to achieve peace was the full implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598.

Spanish Industry Minister Arrives in Tehran

LD2410055188 Tehran IRNA in English 0545 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 24, IRNA—Spanish Minister of Industry and Energy Claudio Aranzadi heading a 50-member delegation arrived in Tehran early Monday and was welcomed by Iran's Heavy Industries Minister Behzad Nabavi. The delegation includes representatives of Spanish industrial and trade companies.

Interviewed upon arrival he said he will hold talks with the Iranian officials on expansion of Tehran-Madrid relations and added that the two countries could enjoy extensive economic and industrial cooperation.

More on objectives of his trip Aranzadi said that while in Tehran he will find out about Iran's priorities in reconstruction and added that Spain is interested in active participation in Iran's post-war reconstruction.

Aranzadi said he is carrying a message from chairman of Spain's parliament to Iranian Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and will also meet with Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi. He said he will also follow up issues he discussed in Madrid with Iran's Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh where he was attending an OPEC session.

Agreement on Power Plants

LD2410163988 Tehran IRNA in English 1555 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Tehran, Oct. 24, IRNA—Iran and Spain agreed to cooperate in building and expanding power plants, following a meeting today between Spanish Minister of Industry and Energy Claudio Aranzadi and Energy Minister Bijan Namdar-Zanganeh.

The two sides also discussed Iran's purchase of components and spare parts needed for gas and steam powered plants with Aranzadi announcing Spain's keenness to contribute to reconstruction projects. At least 60 Spanish companies are presently cooperating with the Islamic Republic in various fields, he added.

Namdar-Zanganeh emphasized on long term economic relations between the two countries and said this depends on whether Spanish companies would offer more facilities in terms of prices and payment. [passage omitted]

GDR Official Departs; Says Talks 'Productive'

LD2310175188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Oct 88

[Text] Mr Goetting, GDR deputy parliamentary speaker, and his accompanying delegation were seen off by Deputy Majlis Speaker Karrubi. The delegation departed Tehran this morning following a 3-day visit to Iran.

Before leaving Tehran, he was interviewed by a Central News Unit reporter. Goetting described his negotiations with Iranian officials as productive and expressed hope that bilateral ties—especially in political, cultural, and social areas—will expand.

Mr Karrubi reiterated the importance of preserving GDR-Iranian ties and expressed hope that political, cultural, and economic cooperation between the two countries resulting from the meetings will be reviewed.

Oil Minister Returns From Madrid OPEC Meeting

LD2510051888 Tehran IRNA in English 0515 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 25, IRNA—Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh returned Tehran Tuesday morning from Madrid where he attended a sesion of Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). Eight OPEC Oil ministers reviewed oil market situation and production of the OPEC members from 20-22 October.

Finance Minister Details Visit to Yugoslavia

NC2210075888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 22 Oct 88

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that Mr Mohammad-Javad Iravani, minister of economic affairs and finance, returned to Tehran from Yugoslavia last night. Mr Iravani headed a (?60-man) delegation to Yugoslavia consisting of officials and experts from the Ministries of Commerce, Industries, Heavy Industries, and Economic Affairs and Finance. The delegation participated in the talks of the joint committee for economic cooperation between Iran and Yugoslavia. During this visit, Iran and Yugoslavia signed a 1-year agreement on the exchange of 1 million tonnes of crude oil for goods and services.

The report states that the minister of economic affairs and finance attended a news conference at Mehrabad Airport and spoke about the outcome of the Iranian economic delegation's visit to Yugoslavia. The Minister of economic affairs and finance stated: The purpose of this visit, which lasted 5 days, was to study industrial and technical cooperation between Iran and Yugoslavia.

The eighth session of the two countries' joint committee for economic cooperation formed three committees—banking, oil and commerce; transportation; and scientific, technical and industrial cooperation.

Mr Iravani said that the volume of trade was set at a minimum level of $400 million and disclosed that 1.3 million tonnes of oil will be exported to Yugoslavia. The minister of economic affairs and finance also spoke about industrial cooperation, and said: Among the activities included in the memorandum of understanding are the manufacture of 5,000 units of heavy and semi-heavy trucks, city buses, refrigeration trucks, city garbage collection trucks, machinery for iron foundries and pressurized pipes for the oil and other industries; the construction of floating and off-shore platforms; the manufacture of heavy gear-boxes; the transfer of technical know-how; and the manufacture of telephone exchange centers and of heavy fork-lifts. Agreement was also reached on the implementation of projects for the manufacture by Yugoslavia of bicycles and metal plumbing fixtures, and of chained tires for bulldozers and for other road-construction machinery.

Both sides also agreed to cooperate in the technical and engineering fields with regard to the construction of power plants, refineries, chemical industries, petrochemical industries and food industries.

Mr Iravani added that this visit had made the Iranian delegation realize that there is good and considerable potential for cooperation between both countries and that bilateral relations can be expanded. He added: We also met with the president, the prime minister, and other officials of the country. Their approach to the Iranian delegation was extremely positive. They expressed satisfaction over the acceptance of Security Council Resolution 598 and emphasized that the 1975 [Algiers] pact must be preserved. These leaders also extended invitations to our president and prime minister to visit Yugoslavia.

President Visits Northwestern Provinces

LD2210090888 Tehran IRNA in English 0854 GMT 21 Oct 88

[Text] Orumiyeh, Oct 22, IRNA—President Khamene'i arrived here Saturday morning in a scheduled visit to the East Azarbayjan Province of Iran and was warmly welcomed by thousands of city people who had lined the streets from the airport to his quarters in the city.

At a meeting with relatives of war veterans and the families of those who have lost their sons and kins in the course of the Iraqi imposed war the president lauded their continued resitance during the post-revolution era and assured tham that a nation which has relied on itself during the crucial ten years since the culmination of the Islamic revolution is capable of standing on its own in the future years.

He called on the relatives of martyrs and the people at large to perpetuate the march on the path of the Islamic revolution in keeping with its moral and ethical values.

Addresses Group at Orumiyeh

LD2210204688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Oct 88

[Text] We start our news with a report on President Khamene'i's speech at a gathering of people in Orumiyeh.

The future of the Islamic Republic means building an Iran that is prosperous and progressive, enjoying knowledge and having a social system full of justice, which could be a model for nations thirsty for justice.

This morning at a great gathering of the various classes of people in Orumiyeh at Takhti Stadium, President Khamene'i made this declaration. He described the transforming aspects of the Islamic revolution and the people's all-round presence on the scenes of the revolution.

While praising the self-sacrifices of the people of this region, who were the targets of various plots hatched by world arrogance and their lackeys since the birth of the Islamic revolution of Iran, he said: Today, after 10 years of continuous struggle, you people are not only not tired, but you are standing firm, as enthusiastic as you were at the beginning of the revolution, defending the values of our ideology.

Describing the reasons for his trip to this province, the president said: Today, after years of looking forward to meeting you—such pious, kind, sincere, brave, and intelligent people—I have come here, first of all to meet you, to thank you, and to observe firsthand the province's and the people's problems. I will then submit a short report on the country's current issues.

Referring to the plots hatched by Eastern and Western superpowers in some of our border regions, he said: Since the beginning of the revolution, a vague and unobtainable hope lived in the hearts of our enemies, which was to create division among the people, based on tribal and religious issues, to pave the way for the United States to once again dominate this country. Today, 10 years after the start of the enemy's plot, anyone observing the glory, greatness, and unity of this nation could see how the enemies' plots failed. He would know that the enemy has not been able to divide our people.

The president presented an analysis of 8 years of holy defense and the outcome of the self-sacrifices and resistance of the brave people of Iran in the imposed war and the consequent failure of superpower plots to deal blows to the Islamic revolution of Iran. He said: By using the sharpest blade of the army of colonialism—military invasion—they wanted to make the Iranian nation regret their Islamic revolution. However, our people, the struggling clergy, the sympathetic wise men of society, and everyone else—those who understood the meaning of the revolution—knew the reason for continuing this defense.

He added: If we had not continued to defend ourselves and mobilized the people, if the enemy had not suffered great weakness, and if world arrogance had not realized that these people were resisting, there would be no trace of revolution and Islam left in this country.

Mr Khamene'i then referred to the future of the country. Stressing the people's fundamental role in this matter, he said: The future of the Islamic Republic entails building an Iran that is prosperous and progressive, enjoying knowledge, and a just social system—a model for nations thirsty for justice.

Finally, he said: We do not consider a prosperous and wealthy society Islamic if there is no justice there. He pointed out: The programs laid down by officials for the country's future should comply with all these principles and values.

Urges Vigilance Against Enemies

LD2310104188 Tehran IRNA in English 0959 GMT 23 Oct 88

[Text] Orumiyeh, W. Azarbayjan Prov., Oct 23, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i warned that although the war has ended Iran should remain vigilant because of threats and conspiracies.

"The threats from our enemies have not ended and the arrogant (powers) will always be plotting," he said at a military gathering here Sunday.

He spoke optimistically about the future, saying Iran's enemies had failed in their previous conspiracies to defeat the Islamic Republic.

Unity among the Army and the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) should be preserved, he stressed, and called for better discipline in the Armed Forces and better use of potentials and facilities.

President Khamene'i arrived here Saturday on a visit to this northwestern province.

Notes 'Bond' Between IRGC, Army

LD2310153188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Oct 88

[Report on visit by President Khamene'i, chairman of Supreme Defense Council, to the 64th Division in Orumiyeh on 23 October, including recorded passage of Khamene'i's remarks at meeting with troops]

[Excerpt] The president and the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council who has been in Western Azarbayjan Province since yesterday, this morning attended a joint morning parade of the Armed Forces stationed in the region. The parade was held in the barracks of the 64th Division in Orumiyeh. Addressing the forces taking part in the parade, he gave a speech.

At the beginning of his remarks Mr Khamene'i said: We are thankful to God to see that after 8 years of holy defense our Armed Forces proudly serve our nation, our homeland, and our revolution with strength and with an enhanced solidarity. Certainly what happened is very bitter to the enemies of the Islamic Republic and to the arrogant powers. They attacked us on a day when they felt that our country, our nation, and our Armed Forces had lost their defensive capability. They imagined that with an all-out military invasion everything would come to an end.

Contrary to their assumption, the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic are more capable, more consolidated, and from both a qualitative and quantitative viewpoint more developed than ever before for a heroic defense of their homeland and their Islamic system.

Continuing his remarks, the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council referred to the fact that the brave Islamic fighters' sense of duty has caused the enemy to give up its foolish aims and ambitious designs regarding the Islamic Republic of Iran. He stressed the decisive response to any military move against the sacred order of the Islamic Republic of Iran and said: In addition to the Armed Forces, the Guards Corps, and the mobilization forces, we have security forces such as the Gendarmerie, the committees, and the police that joined appropriate military units and brought the enemy under their crushing blows.

Mr. Khamene'i added: The Armed Forces and the Guards Corps are recognized as two armed wings of the Islamic Republic, and they shall continue to be regarded as such. The links between these two powerful forces were made stronger on the battlefields as they confronted the enemy, and we should value this sacred fraternal bond.

Addressing the military brothers, the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council said: I urge you to safeguard your discipline which is your speciality, because discipline is an Islamic trait and no organization or armed force can be effective without it. Mr Khamene'i added: My next word of advice is to repair and maintain your equipment, weapons, facilities, and arms. We took the first steps in self-sufficiency and independence by safeguarding what we had. He also said:

[Begin Khamene'i recording] The imposed war is over. The enemy has stopped its continued aggression and invasion and has been forced to give up its unrealistic ambitions and goals—the reason it started the war. The strength of the faith of the Iranian people forced this upon them and the war was terminated. Nevertheless, the threats are not over. The traitorous hands of the arrogant powers will always remain active. Only your preparedness and vigilance will cut off these hands and will force the arrogant powers to refrain from continuing to exert force through military or other devious means. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Visits Kurdish Area of Mahabad

LD2310181488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Oct 88

[Text] An IRNA correspondent reports on the visit to Mahabad of Mr Khamene'i, president and the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council:

[Begin unidentified correspondent's recording] This morning at 1000 President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i entered the town of Mahabad and received a warm and enthusiastic welcome from Mahabad's Muslim people. On entering Mahabad, Mr Khamene'i was welcomed by the Friday imams, clergymen, officials, and the Muslim tribesmen of various southern towns of West Azarbayjan Province. During the ceremony, a bouquet of flowers was presented to him by two children from the honorable martyrs' families of Mahabad. One of the Muslim tribesmen welcomed the president.

In an interview with our correspondent, Mr Khamene'i spoke about the aims of his visit to the Mahabad region and said: I have come to Mahabad to visit the literature-loving and cultural town and the faithful and enthusiastic people of Mahabad. I am pleased to be visiting my Kurdish brothers so that I can express my appreciation to brothers who have faced years of difficulties from counterrevolutionaries because of their support and loyalty to the Islamic Republic. In this region, the good soldiers, who are mostly from the region's (?ethnic) youth, have risked their lives for the sake defending the Islamic revolution.

In connection with the commencement of Unity Week Mr Khamene'i added: Every day of the year is unity day for us. During this week, I invite all the world's Muslims to maintain unity, because our unity is not the unity of Shi'ites or Sunnis, it is the unity of all the world's (?free-thinking) Muslims against global arrogance.

Regarding the measures taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding Iraqi Kurdish refugees, the president said: In previous year we were hosts to our Iraqi Kurdish brothers and sisters and, as long as they remain in our country, we will continue to care for them.

After participating in the ceremony, Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the president, was driven in a car through several of Mahabad's streets and was warmly greeted along his route by the Muslim people of Mahabad.
The Central News Unit, Mahabad [end recording]

Continues Azarbayjan Tour

LD2410183288 Tehran IRNA in English 1736 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] Tabriz, E. Azarbayjan Prov., IRNA—The carpets and caviar era is long past and today the world knows Iran by the courage of its people, said the president adding "Iran now plays a determining role on the world scene."

Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Khamene'i addressing a gathering in Khamneh (E. Azarbayjan Prov.) Monday, said when the Islamic Republic firmly resisted the West and East during 8 years of the imposed war, by no means will it submit to world powers now in the post-war reconstruction phase.

"Our revolution taught us to perform all great tasks by ourselves," said the president referring to the achievements of the Islamic revolution.

Khamene'i noted that reconstruction will not be confined to Tehran or other provincial capitals, but will include even the remotest hamlet desecrated by enemy aggression.

The president who is also head of the Supreme Defense Council (SDC) stressed that Iranian people will carry out reconstruction under government guidelines.

Khamneh with a population of 4,000 is located in East Azarbayjan Province, and the president derives his family name (Khamene'i) from that very town since his family originally hails from there, although he was born and grew up in the holy city of Mashhad (N.E. Iran).

President Khamene'i started his tour of East and West Azarbayjan Provinces last Friday.

Navy Chief on Gulf Minesweeping Operations

LD2410171388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] Rear Admiral Malekzadegan, commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy, has announced the Navy's total readiness to sweep the coasts of the other countries of the Persian Gulf to clear mines, if they require.

The Navy commander, who visited Bandar-e Mahshahr, told our correspondent about the Navy's mine-sweeping activities in the Persian Gulf, and said: After the return of relative calm to the Persian Gulf, the Iranian Navy carried out extensive minesweeping operations in the first and second zone in the northern Persian Gulf. These zones extend to the middle of the Persian Gulf and then from the Strait of Hormuz to the upper region. After this stage the international waters will also be searched for mines.

Khalkhali Calls for Restoration of Placenames

LD2410142688 Tehran IRNA in English 1408 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 24, IRNA—A prominent member of the Majlis has called for the restoration of historical names of cities and places many of which were changed after the overthrow of the monarchy in 1979. He specifically mentioned the city of Bakhtaran in western Iran which used to be called Kermanshah and was renamed because of the word "shah", according to exerpts published by a daily newspaper.

"In historical books (by Islamic scholars) dating back a thousand years the name referred to is Kermanshah and now that we have gotten rid of the shah is it right that we change the name of cities like Shahrud and Kermanshah?" asked Hojjat ol-Eslam Sadeq Khalkhali.

"Kermanshah is Kermanshah. The revolution is in place and will be in place (but) with these (changes of names) we cannot keep the people satisfied," he said in the open session of the Majlis Sunday.

Khalkhali who became a senior Islamic judge after the Islamic revolution, was quoted by Monday's ETTELA'AT newspaper that raising the people's culture and improving their general condition was the answer not new names in place of the old.

The Majlis member from Qom was also quoted as saying that Majlis Speaker and Acting Commander-in-Chief Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in a recent visit had referred to the western city as Kermanshah instead of Bakhtaran.

KDP Discloses August Iraqi Chemical Attacks

LD2310180888 Tehran IRNA in English 1751 GMT 23 Oct 88

[Text] Bakhtaran, Oct. 23, IRNA—On August 29 Iraqi warplanes showered with chemicals the small village of Goli-Bazi [name as received] in Al-'Amadiyah Province martyring over 300 families, the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) Disclosed.

On August 25 it said 44 Iraqi villages were targets of Iraqi chemical attacks, five days after a cease-fire took effect in the Iraq-Iran war and the very day U.N. mediated peace talks started in Geneva.

The KDP named 77 villages which were subjected to chemical raids in late August.

Thousands of civilians were killed or wounded in the attacks and tens of thousands were forces to take refuge in Turkey and Iran.

SAIRI Chairman on Struggle Against Iraq

LD2110163188 Tehran IRNA in English 1545 GMT 21 Oct 88

[Text] Damascus, Oct. 21, IRNA—Visiting head of Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Baqir Hakim Thursday reiterated the need for continuation of armed struggle by Iraqi mujahidin against Saddam Husayn's regime.

Speaking in a gathering of Iraqi nationals residing in Syria at the holy shrine of Hazrat Zaynab—Imam Hoseyn (AS)'s [peace by upon him] younger sister—Hoj. Hakim said as long as Saddam leads the Iraqi regime, the region will never witness tranquility.

The Iraqi regime violated all international regulations in its nearly 8-year-old war against Iran by deploying chemical weapons against innocent Iranian and Iraqi people, he reminded.

After Iran accepted U.N. Security Council Resolution 598, Saddam began hatching plots against the Lebanese nation, Hakim said, adding Saddam—along with usurping the Zionist regime and Michel 'Awn—tries to carry out the colonialists' plot of dividing Lebanon.

Hoj. Hakim, adverting to military abilities of the SAIRI, said Badr 9 Corps has over 70,000 experiences, regular forces who, he said, have proved their efficiency in various operations.

Terming Iran's acceptance of the Resolution 598 a "wise decision" he concluded by saying that the decision will not affect the trend of Iraqi mujahidin's struggle against the Ba'thist regime of Iraq.

Returns to Tehran

LD2310101488 Tehran IRNA in English 0805 GMT 23 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 23, IRNA—Chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Baqir Hakim returned here Saturday night at the end of his official six-day visit to Syria.

During his visit held at the invitation of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim held talks with ranking Syrian officials. He also met with Iraqi opposition groups in Damascus and reviewed ways to coordinate their campaign against the Iraqi regime.

775 Disabled Iraqi POW's Released

LD2410153688 Tehran IRNA in English 1501 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 24, IRNA—Iran has unilaterally freed 410 disabled Iraqi POW's since October 1985 but the Iraqi regime is yet to fulfill its promise of releasing 25 Iranian POW's by August 1986.

Mahmud Aqamiri [name as received], official in charge of Iranian POW's in Iraq said Monday that even today 40 days after Iran's unilateral release of another 72 disabled POW's (12 September), Baghdad has merely repeated its old announcement that it would release 25 Iranian POW's.

Aqamiri said the Islamic Republic has to date freed 775 Iraqi POW's—all militarymen—in ten batches, while Iraq has released only 200-odd Iranian POW's plus the 400 border civilians including several women, kidnapped by Ba'thist forces in the initial days of the aggression.

Commentary Assails Iraq Over POW Exchanges

LD2210141288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1046 GMT 22 Oct 88

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Last Thursday the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran issued a statement in which it announced that it was fully prepared, within the framework of UN Resolution No 598 and with the intention of implementing the clauses of the resolution step by step, to begin the exchange of POW's. The statement also says that the Islamic Republic is fully prepared to release more disabled and sick POW's as soon as Iraq takes a similar step.

This is taking place at a time when the Islamic Republic of Iran, taking note of the humanitarian dimensions of prisoner exchanges and the need for this to take place as soon as possible, unilaterally took steps to release crippled and wounded Iraqi POW's 3 years ago. After the cease-fire and in line with implementing the clauses of the resolution, on the basis of the UN secretary general's plan to achieve a full and lasting peace, 72 more sick and wounded Iraqi POW's and 16 Egyptian POW's were released.

(?It was hoped) that the Iraqi regime also, in response to this humanitarian measure, would give priority to the release of wounded and disabled POW's. The Iraqi regime, during this period, not only did not respond to the Islamic Republic of Iran's declared desire to exchange POW's, but did not cooperate properly even with the International Red Cross delegation that went to Iraq to obtain a list of Iranian POW's, and prevented that delegation from registering the names of Iranian POW's in any form. Meanwhile, in line with the UN secretary general's wishes that on the same day the cease-fire was declared, 20 August, the date for the start of the implementation of the resolution's clauses was supposed to be announced. It was predicted that the exchange of prisoners between Iran and Iraq would start 3 weeks after the cease-fire was announced. However, just as was expected, this plan was actively rejected by the Iraqi regime. [passage omitted]

Following the repeated announcements by the Islamic Republic that it was ready to exchange POW's, the Iraqi regime, after weeks of procrastination and obstructionism in implementing Clause 2 of the resolution on withdrawing to international boundaries, announced last Tuesday that it was ready to exchange prisoners—but not within the framework of Resolution No 598. Taking note of the fact that the Iraqi regime from the start of the negotiations has maintained its obstruction aimed at steadily weakening the clause by clause implementation of Resolution 598, it becomes clear that the Iraqi regime has not been sincere in its official remarks and statements and is not ready to undertake the necessary cooperation within the framework of Resolution No 598.

The past activities of the Iraqi regime show that these inopportune claims are another type of obstruction to the UN secretary general's plan, so that Iraq can provide some justification for the pressure of complaints from the Iraqi people concerning the return of POW's to their families and it can divert world public attention away from the negotiations and the implementation of the clauses of Resolution No 598. It should be noted that the Iraqi regime previously called for the step-by-step implementation of the clauses of Resolution No 598 and now, by raising an issue which is outside the framework of the negotiations, it is openly contradicting itself.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, while welcoming the point that the Iraqi regime has finally accepted the repeated suggestions that Iran has made concerning the exchange of POW's, announces that the only solution for a lasting peace is the speedier implementation of Resolution No 598, one by one, and a speedier agreement in the negotiations on the basis of Resolution No 598 so that, after the withdrawal to international boundaries, the exchange of POW's could also take place immediately.

Finally, the Islamic Republic of Iran calls on the International Red Cross delegation to increase its activities at this juncture. It also declares that priority should be given to the release of more than 700 Iranian military personnel who were captured during the cease-fire. Therefore, a list of the Iranian POW's in Iraq should be prepared as soon as possible so that the exchange of POW's can begin, thus giving hope to thousands of anxious families.

Foundation To Pay Loans to 'Imposed War' Migrants

LD2110141088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Oct 88

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that the supervisor of the Foundation for the Affairs of Migrants of the Imposed War has announced that in order to provide employment for the migrants of the imposed war and in order to set up productive units, the migrants of the war throughout the country will be paid a sum of 5 billion rials in loans.

He said the loans will be paid to those among the migrants of the imposed war who intend to set up cooperatives in such spheres as agricultural affairs, industry, mines, and the production of building materials.

Sohrabi Comments on Drug Smuggling, Draft Dodgers

NC2410090588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] Brigadier General Sohrabi, commander of the Gendarmerie, went to Ilam Province and attended a ceremony at the Ilam Gendarmerie Headquarters. Lauding the martyrs of the Gendarmerie killed during the imposed war, he said: The pitiless fight on the eastern borders against insurgents and drug smugglers, carried out on an extensive scale by the Gendarmerie and the Revolution Guards of the Islamic Revolution Committee, continues. This fight has been very successful so far.

He continued: More than 5 tonnes of drugs and more than 2,000 precious handwoven carpets have been found by Gendarmerie personnel and handed over to the country's judicial authorities.

Brigadier General Sohrabi said: There were those who, in the heat of the war, dodged the sacred duty of conscription. However, in view of the loftiness of Islam and on orders of the commander in chief, they were given a deadline. This deadline was extended so that those who were not drafted, for any reason, could present themselves. This step was welcomed. He then addressed employers throughout the country and said: We expect all employers not to hire conscripts, In this way, they will carryi out their canonical duty and be immune from the punishments accorded by such employers.

Unrest Reported in Baluchestan va Sistan Province

TA2410090288 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Oct 88

[Text] Reports from Baluchestan va Sistan Province indicate that the situation there is not calm. The reports add that with the acceleration of the patriotic people's opposition to Khomeyni's regime, armed clashes have escalated between the patriots and the regime's agents.

In confirmation of this, we have received a report from Tehran to the effect that the governor general of Baluchestan va Sistan was summoned to the capital to provide details about the growing antiregime struggles in that region. He briefed the cabinet before noon today on the problems of Baluchestan va Sistan, and this news item was broadcast by the regime's radio. According to informed sources in Tehran, the Baluchestan va Sistan governor general asked Mir Hoseyn Musavi's cabinet to send reinforcements to the province in order to confront the escalating wave of antiregime struggles in the region.

Former Minister Reveals Unauthorized Purchases

TA2410084988 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Oct 88

[Text] In an article in the Tehran newspaper RESALAT, Tavakkoli, former labor minister in the Islamic Republic, revealed that in recent years the Islamic Republic has made purchases from abroad worth billions of dollars without Majlis authorization. According to Mir Hoseyn Musavi's former cabinet minister, the nature of these purchases is such that they can be regarded as loans. Tavakkoli added that the terms for this type of purchase are much worse than those for obtaining foreign loans.

Sri Lanka

Colombo Reports on UNP Election Manifesto

BK2210131988 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 22 Oct 88

[Text] The ruling United National Party—UNP—has unveiled its manifesto for the presidential election. UNP Chairman Ranjan Wijeratne announced the two-part manifesto at a news conference at the party headquarters Sri Kotte yesterday.

The first part deals with the new outlook on restoring peace to the country, reestablishing law and order and the elimination of poverty. The second part of the manifesto complements the first part. The overall program seeks to unite the people as a resource for development starting from the village level to the provincial councils set up to expand popular participation in government. The future course to be chartered will have a place for conciliation board to settle minor disputes among rural folks.

The manifesto contains the theme: development through the people as a resource to eliminate poverty. A special place has been given by the party for a fresh industrial development in Sri Lanka over the next 6 years. Special reference has also been made to the extensive use of human labor and appropriate technology and a place to youth leadership.

The UNP gives prominence to creating avenues of self-employment. The party will strive to maintain the identities of the Sinhala, Tamil, Muslim and other sections of the community. A program has been drawn up to provide jobs for all school leavers in keeping with their academic qualifications, ability, basic qualifications and ethnic ratio will be considered in a recruitment to the public service. The party will endeavor to strengthen relations with the working class as a whole under the national social security scheme. Labor laws will be amended to conform to the policy of compulsory reconciliation of industrial disputes.

The manifesto notes that the party's socio-development policy would greatly help to involve a large number of indigent families once again in the development strategy. Basic facilities will be reallocated to achieve this objective.

Curfews Imposed in Southern, Western Provinces

BK2410144088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1430 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Colombo, Oct 24 (AFP)—Sri Lanka announced 18- to 28-hour-long curfews in the Southern and Western Provinces, including the capital, from midnight (1830 GMT) Monday [24 October] in a bid to break a planned protest by anti-government militants.

A statement issued here late Monday said the government had information that "subversive elements" were seeking to kill individuals, destroy public property and attack security forces in the next 24-hours.

The statement added that troops had been ordered to shoot curfew violators on sight. Officials said the move was aimed at breaking planned mass protests by the anti-government Sinhalese Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP—People's Liberation Front).

The statement said the decision to impose the curfew in the Southern and Western Provinces had been taken in a bid to "save human life and public property."

"Our information also shows that there is a plan to disrupt work places by using a small coterie of subversive sympathisers within the work place... These people will spread scare stories and incite the workers, so that work will come to a standstill," the statement added.

The JVP staged a nationwide strike Thursday and have held similar protests during the past month in which at least 15 people died in clashes with security forces.

Residents in Southern Province contacted by telephone Monday said the JVP had distributed leaflets telling them to participate in anti-government demonstrations or face death.

The government statement said the authorities had received complaints from people saying that they were being coerced into acting against their wishes. [passage omitted]

Curfew 'Strictly Imposed'

BK2510025288 Hong Kong AFP in English 0243 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Text] Colombo, Oct 25 (AFP)—Thousands of security forces armed with shoot on sight orders were patrolling in two key Sri Lankan provinces and the capital Tuesday, hours after a bomb attack on a ruling party office killed four people, officials said.

Suspected activists of the militant Sinhalese Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP or People's Liberation Front) exploded a bomb at a United National Party (UNP) office in Colombo's Kotahena District late Monday, police said.

The bomb attack came as the government announced curfews of up to 28-hours in the Southern and Western provinces, including the capital, from midnight (1830 GMT) Monday to prevent planned anti-government protests.

A police spokesman here said the curfew was being strictly enforced and no curfew permits were being issued, even to doctors.

"If doctors want to go to hospital, they can telephone us and police will escort them," the spokesman said.

A special government statement announced over state radio said people leaving the country could use their airticket as a curfew pass while incoming passengers must produce the ticket counterfoil.

The government, in a separate statement issued late Monday, said it had information that "subversive elements" were seeking to disrupt the normal life of the community Tuesday.

Officials said the government action was aimed at breaking a planned JVP strike throughout the country Tuesday.

Police said some 20,000 dockworkers at Colombo's main port had planned to stage a protest march.

The government statement said the subversives' plan appeared to be "to kill individuals, destroy public property, and attack security forces establishments under the guise of protests.

"The government decided to declare curfews to save human life and public property. Curfew violators are warned that they are liable to be shot on sight."

The curfew in the capital was the first in 15 months. A similar curfew was imposed in July 1987 when the JVP led street demonstrations against an Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord which sought to end a bloody Tamil separatist campaign.

In Western Province, which includes Colombo, the curfew is due to be lifted at 6:00 p.m. (1230 GMT) while in Southern Province, a hotbed of JVP activity, it will last until early Wednesday.

"Our information also shows that there is a plan to disrupt work places by using a small coterie of subversive sympathisers within the workplace," the government statement said.

"Those people will spread scare stories and incite the workers, so that work will come to a standstill," it added.

In the past month, the JVP has successfully staged several strikes, despite the govenment clamping sweeping emergency regulations to break them, triggering clashes with troops which left at least 15 dead.

Residents in Southern Province contacted by telephone said they were threatened by JVP men to take part in anti-government demonstrations or face death.

The JVP opposes the July 1987 peace accord. Since the pact was signed, the group has been accused of killing more than 500 ruling party men, security personnel and leftists backing the accord.

In 1971, the group led a bloody insurrection which was put down with the loss of at least 10,000 lives.

Suspected 'Militants' Bomb UNP Branch Office

BK2410153488 Hong Kong AFP in English 1526 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] Colombo, Oct 24 (AFP)—Suspected Sinhalese militants bombed an office of the ruling party here Monday [24 October] killing at least four and wounding 20 as the authorities announced curfews to break planned anti-government protests.

Two gunmen believed to be from the Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP or People's Liberation Front) threw a grenade at a United National Party (UNP) branch office in Colombo's Kotahena District while a meeting was on, police said.

The attack came almost immediately after the government had announced the imposition of curfews of up to 28 hours in Sri Lanka's southern and western provinces from midnight (1830 GMT) Monday.

An eyewitness said he had seen at least three men with serious head injuries being carried into a car while dozens of others were taken to the hospital with relatively minor wounds.

Hospital sources said four people had been certified dead on admission.

The curfew covers Colombo, which is in Western Province.

UNP Headquarters 'Not Bombed'

BK2510090288 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0808 GMT 25 Oct 88

["OANA/pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 25 (LANKAPUVATH)—Five supporters of the ruling United National Party (UNP) were killed last night when two assasins, one of them carrying a gun and 2 hand grenades attacked a UNP local group meeting being held in a house at Sanghamitta Mawatha in Colombo 13, police told LANKAPUVATH.

The attack at 1945 hours (local time) came 15 minutes before the government announced curfews in the southern and western provinces including Colombo.

Police said one subversive had tried to fire a gun but the mechanism had jammed. The two men had then thrown bombs.

They said that 41 one persons were wounded in the bomb blast, many of them being injured in trying to escape from the room in which they were meeting.

Police also said there was absolutely no truth in certain foreign media reports including one broadcast by the BBC that the UNP headquarters in Colombo had been bombed.

Indian Soldiers Killed in Landmine Explosions

BK2310143088 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1400 GMT 23 Oct 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 23 Oct (LANKAPUVATH)—Four Indian soldiers were killed in separate landmine explosions today. Indian High Commission sources told LANKAPUVATH that two IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] soldiers were killed by an LTTE landmine explosion in the Wanni sector this morning.

A report from Batticaloa states that in the second explosion at Kaludavalai in the eastern sector, two IPKF soldiers who were on a road clearing operation were killed in a landmine blast.

5 Persons Killed in North, East

BK2410111988 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1038 GMT 24 Oct 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 24 Oct (LANKAPUVATH)—Five persons, including a hardcore terrorist, were killed in separate incidents in the north and east in the last two days. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] shot dead a hardcore LTTE terrorist named Anandan alias Rames at Kattaiparichchan in the Trincomalee sector, yesterday.

The sources said that Indian troops apprehended 1 terrorist at Puttur and 3 other terrorists at Kodikamam. The IPKF also captured 2 terrorists at Mannar in the Wanni sector.

IPKF patrols in the Batticaloa town apprehended two hardcore terrorists while another patrol in Pullumalai recovered one hand grenade. A report from Mannar states that Sebamalai was abducted by terrorists Thursday [20 October]. His body was found yesterday strung to a lamp post. The report further states that the victim had earlier received warnings from the LTTE not to have connections with the EPRLF and the IPKF.

The body of 'Nithi' was produced at the Batticaloa hospital by a TELO cadre named Prashana. It is alleged that Nithi was shot dead by LTTE terrorists. Two civilians, one from the Jaffna town and the other from Maruthanamadam, were killed by unidentified persons, states a report from Jaffna.